# GMA bats for int'l coalition against poverty

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 3

**WHAT'S INSIDE**
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KUNG MAS MABILIS, MAS MABUTI!

# Jovy bares new way to get Marcos money

## Pope to visit RP next year for World Meet of Families

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

THE VATICAN has chosen the Philippines, the bastion of Roman Catholicism in Asia, as next year's venue of the World Meeting of Families, which will be led by Pope John Paul II.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said the event would again gather the Catholic faithful from all over the world to Manila on Jan. 23-26, 2003.

In 1994, thousands of young men and women from different countries joined the Pope in Manila in celebrating World Youth Day.

"Maybe it was because of our faith and the value that we give to our families that the Holy Father chose the Philippines to host the World Meeting of Families," said Msgr. Ding Coronel, new CBCP secretary general.

The Pope himself announced during the third World Meeting of Families in Rome that the Philippines will be the next host, said Coronel, a former spokesperson of the CBCP.

The 2003 celebration, dubbed "The Christian Family: Good News for the Third Millennium," will focus on the role of Christian families in evangelization.

It will feature an International Theological-Pastoral Congress, the main venue for theological and pastoral discussions.

Because it will be held here, the celebration for Christian families is expected to take on an Asian flavor and focus, with special emphasis on the missionary task of families in Asia,

POPE/A19

## AFP starts search for journalist

**By Martin P. Marfil**

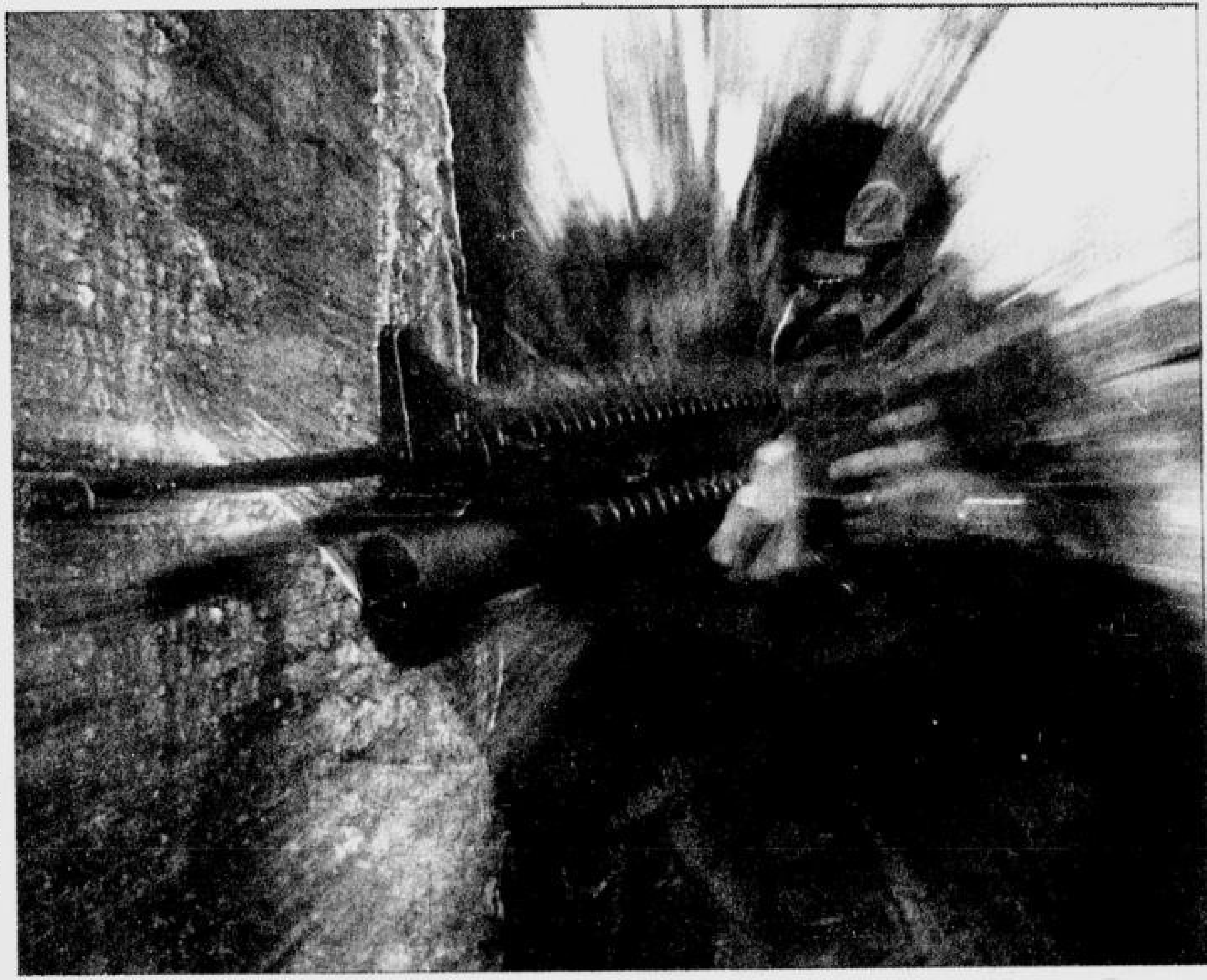
THE MILITARY yesterday launched a search for a Filipino woman journalist who has gone missing in Basilan while trying to interview elusive Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva to coordinate with the police and "exert efforts to locate" Arlyn de la Cruz, a reporter for the local cable network Net 25.

Dela Cruz, who also contributes articles to the INQUIRER, was last seen by her colleagues on Jan. 19 at the Garden Hotel in Zamboanga City, according to defense department spokesperson Ros Manlangit.

She reportedly left for Basilan where Abu Sayyaf bandits are holding hostage

AFP/A19



MOCK WAR: An Army Scout Ranger aims his M-203 rifle at an "enemy" during war games with American soldiers at a military camp in Cabunbata, Basilan. DENNIS SABANGAN

## Ex-senator cites Europe protocol

**By Volt Contreras and Donna S. Cueto**

**A FASTER way for the government to get hold of the $660 million in Marcos Swiss deposits is "without passing through our inefficient judicial system," former Senate President Jovito Salonga said yesterday.**

Salonga spoke of the "alternative procedure of getting the (money) directly from the Swiss government" as he expressed dismay over the Sandiganbayan decision nullifying its September 2000 ruling that forfeited in favor of the government the Marcos Swiss deposits.

"Cut short the logjam, and make the $660 million available to our people, hopefully within the year 2002 and not later than 2003," said Salonga, first chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

He chided the Sandiganbayan's first division for reversing its ruling on a mere technicality.

In its ruling on Friday, the division, chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, said the money could not be turned over to the government because it failed to present "authenticated translations" of the rulings of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court.

The Swiss Supreme Court had declared that the money belonged to the Marcoses and that much of it had been illegally acquired.

Salonga, now head of Kilosbayan, said an off-court solution could be found in the Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, recently

JOVY/A18

## Grumblings surface during 'Balikatan'

**By Martin P. Marfil and Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WHEN it rains, it pours.

Filipino troops will get military training coming out of their ears with the start in April of the regularly scheduled annual Balikatan joint exercise with US soldiers under the Visiting Forces Agreement.

The regular Balikatan (shoulder-to-shoulder) exercise will be held at Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija, even as another training, code-named "02-1," opened in Zamboanga City last week.

"Balikatan 02-1" was expected to run through July, or until the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Mindanao is wiped out and their three hostages, including two Americans, are rescued.

"(The regular Balikatan will take place from) April to June. It would last 45 days, so there will be an overlap (of the two exercises)," said Brig. Gen. Delfin Lorenzana, chief of the Special

GRUMBLINGS/A18

## Send lawyers to war front for reality check

**By Amando Doronila**

**ANALYSIS**

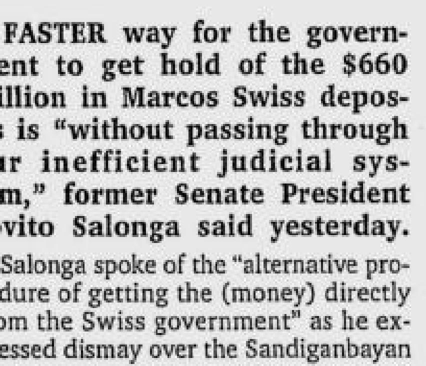
THE FILING with the Supreme Court of a petition to declare unconstitutional the Balikatan 02-1 training exercise does not come as a surprise.

In a country teeming with lawyers out to make a living reading too many meanings into the Constitution—in the manner that many religious leaders are raking in money from their followers by squeezing hilarious interpretations of the Holy Bible—it would have been out of character if the lawsuit on the war games had not been filed.

The suit offers nothing new—either in legal arguments or in facts—that has not been said before. So it's a waste of time repeating the petitioners' arguments.

But challenges to government policy raising constitutional issues are as prolific as TROs (temporary restraining orders) blocking economic projects or

SEND/A19


KAILANGAN LANG JOGGING AT PUSH-UP!

## 'Oldest' Bicolano longs for pension as war veteran

**By Job Belen**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

TABACO CITY—Discipline and God's will have allowed a Bicolano to live for more than 100 years, perhaps making him the oldest living Filipino.

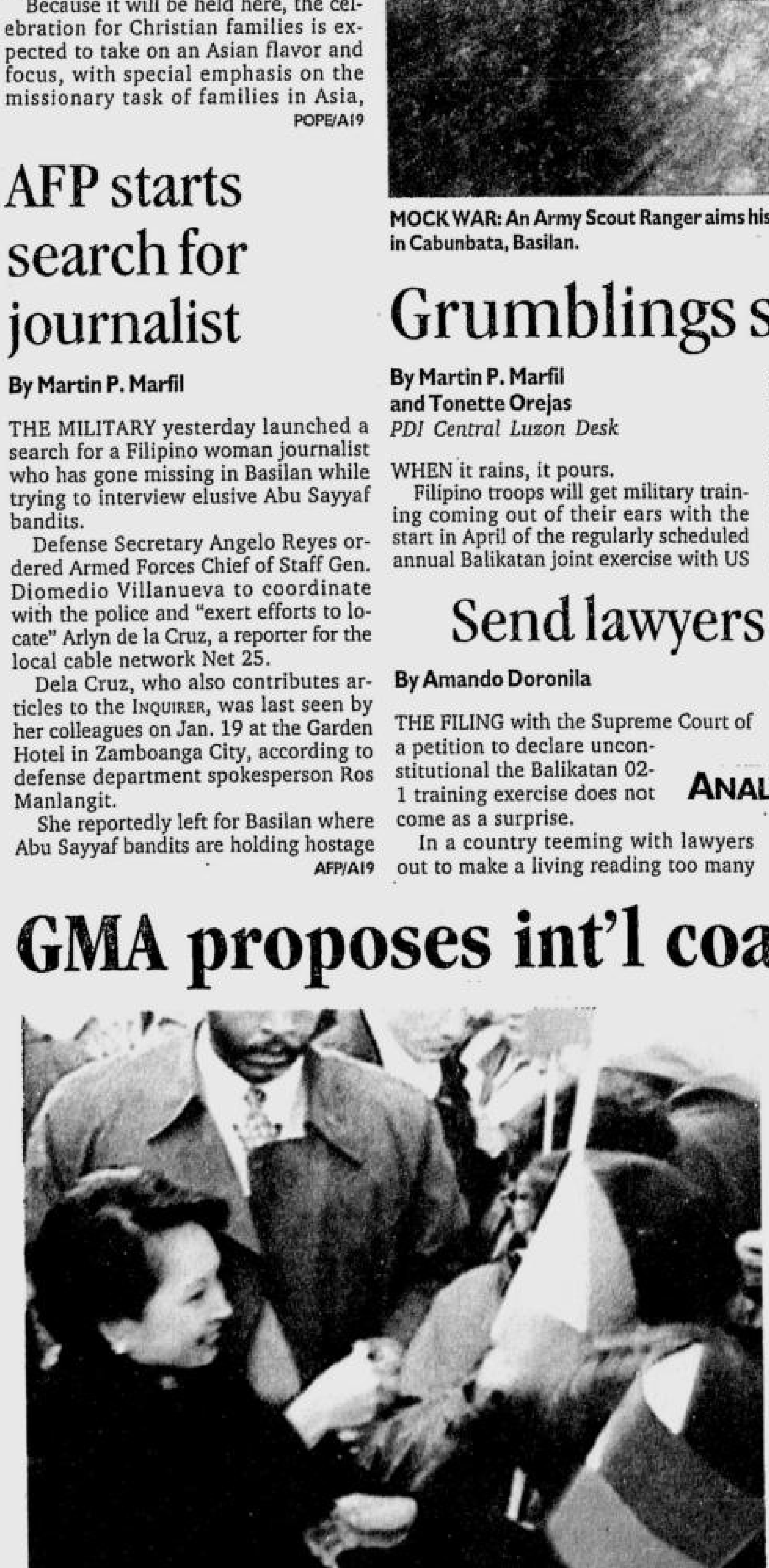
For his 114th birthday on May 25, Jose Shull wishes to be physically fit and mentally alert.

He is rather short for a son of an American, Joseph Shull, and a Filipina, Rafaela Siguera. He is only 5 feet tall.

With no known relatives here,

OLDEST/A19

## GMA proposes int'l coalition against poverty



PRESIDENT Macapagal meets "kababayans" holding Philippine flags during a visit to a Filipino community in Queens, New York City. RUFINO GONZALES II/INQUIRER NEWS SERVICE

**By Tony S. Bergonia**
*Assistant National Editor*

NEW YORK (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo opened a Third World window on the war against terrorism for an audience of world leaders and top international businessmen here.

The President, according to her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, proposed that an international coalition against poverty be formed alongside the US-led coalition against terrorism as a more effective way of bringing down terrorism on its knees.

Tiglao said the proposal, which Ms Macapagal made in a closed-door meeting at the tightly guarded World Economic Forum, "was well-received" by other world leaders.

"It was a good opportunity for the President (to present another means of fighting terrorism) and she took advantage of it," Tiglao said.

He said the proposal drew many questions which focused mainly on how a coalition against poverty "could replace guns, bombs and spies against terrorist network."

The President said the rich nations of the world should not just limit their help to poor countries to aid, according to Tiglao.

"She told them that opening up markets could improve the economic conditions of poor countries," he said.

Ms Macapagal went on a tour of the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States on a mission of increasing trade between the Philippines and other countries.

She brought up her ideas of fighting terrorism by reducing, if not eliminating, poverty during her meetings with British and Canadian leaders.

The President's proposal for an international anti-poverty coalition would have made her new friends among the police-estimated 2,000 protesters who gathered outside the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where the WTF was being held.

"The world is not for sale!" shouted the protesters, who marched near Cen-

GMA/A18

## *Second* FRONT PAGE

KANYA-KANYANG KAMPIHAN!

# 'Desierto case cuts across party lines'

**By Melvin Gascon**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*
**and Christine O. Avendaño**

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla predicted yesterday that legislators would cross party lines when they vote on two impeachment complaints against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

"The Desierto case cuts across party lines," said Padilla adding that the vote could trigger a realignment of forces in the House of Representatives.

"The majority would not have a common stand; the same goes with the minority. You may see some, maybe even a greater number, of the minority members joining the pro-Desierto forces in the majority," Padilla told reporters here.

In like manner, he said congressmen pushing the impeachment charges might find allies in the majority bloc.

The House is set today to deliberate, and possibly vote on the first of two impeachment complaints, which the justice committee earlier voted to dismiss.

Desierto is facing two separate complaints, the first of which was for allegedly accepting a bribe from a businessman in exchange for sitting on an investigation of the latter's bank in 1997.

In the second case, he is accused of deliberately bungling the investigation and prosecution of the P5.2 billion tax credit scam.

The anti-Desierto group of legislators, led by Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, is trying to head off a vote on the committee report dismissing the first complaint as it would mean a ban on any succeeding charges against Desierto.

According to Padilla, the one-year prohibition becomes effective only after the House officially acts on the committee report in a plenary session.

The pro-impeachment plank is rushing to gather the 73 signatures needed to transmit the second complaint directly to the Senate, ahead of a House vote on the first complaint.

Zubiri said he was worried that some congressmen may move to end interpellations altogether and go straight for a vote.

But House Majority Floor Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the House has six session days to act on the first complaint.

There may even be a chance the House would not take up the first impeachment complaint today as Mondays are usually given over to legislators wanting to raise issues or matters of personal privilege, said Gonzales.

Leaders of the National Association of Corruption Prevention Units (Nacpu), an umbrella organization of some 1,300 people's organization, urged the House to vote on the first complaint today as scheduled, saying the vote had already been rescheduled three times.

"Any further delay in the resolution of the impeachment question against the Ombudsman affects in a very large degree the effective pursuit by our respective organizations to help identify and cause the investigation of grafters in government," Nacpu leader Bishop Juan P. Pring said in a statement.

The spokesperson for the Ombudsman's office, Jose de Jesus Jr., said two impeachment complaints filed apart from each other must be taken up by the House membership one after the other "pursuant to the law and rules and for the sake of equitable justice and fair play."

A group of activist lawyers yesterday said it would question before the Supreme Court a House vote on the first complaint.

Leonard de Vera, head of Equal Justice, or E-just, said he found "unreasonable" and "illogical" the view that once the first impeachment case is voted on, and thus becomes "initiated" according to the rules, it would have the effect of killing the second complaint.

"It makes a mockery of citizens' right to hold accountable government officials which is guaranteed in the Constitution," De Vera said in a phone interview.

De Vera said that nowhere in the Constitution did it state that "an initiated impeachment case can kill or bar a second or third impeachment case already filed before the House took action on it." *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

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# Ombudsman's employees hit solon, demand apology

**By Michael L. Ubac**

EMPLOYEES of the Ombudsman's Office yesterday lashed out at Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno for saying that he would seek a "top-to-bottom revamp" of the anti-graft agency "to rid it of corrupt officials."

Claiming that Moreno's statement had placed them under a "very big dark cloud of suspicion," the employees demanded an apology from the congressman.

"By his spoken words, as quoted by the media, the lawmaker has turned us all into grafters and crooks," said Raymundo Julio A. Olaguer, the president of the Ombudsman Lawyers League of the Philippines, in a statement.

Olaguer is a special prosecutor at the Office of the Special Prosecutor, the prosecution arm of the Ombudsman's office.

Olaguer denounced Moreno's "unethical and sweeping attack" on the integrity and independence of the Ombudsman's office for "his own political agenda."

Olaguer noted that Moreno's attacks were first aimed at Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr.

"But now (they) also extended to cover practically all the employees," he said.

Ombudsman employees wanted Moreno to name the officials and employees involved in alleged corruption, he said.

"We will also demand that Congress and the judiciary discipline him for conduct unbecoming of a lawyer and congressman," he added.

Commenting on calls for him to go on a leave of absence, Desierto said honoring the "unique" suggestion would create chaos in government.

"If this is to be followed every time a public official is attacked, then there will be nobody left to take care of the government," he said.

"The Ombudsman is a constitutional officer mandated to perform a seven-year term. I will gladly step down when my term ends this August," Desierto said.

He maintained that Moreno and lawyer Ernesto Francisco, who filed the first impeachment complaint against him, had lied and twisted the facts.

Moreno yesterday said he was startled by a statement from the Task Force 156, the special agency tasked with gathering evidence on the tax credit scam, "(acknowledging) the exclusive prerogative of the Office of the Ombudsman to determine the appropriate legal strategy for the successful prosecution" of the cases.

The Ombudsman's office has maintained its position that only one plunder case can be filed against any public official.

Moreno had alleged that Desierto's consolidation of the tax credit scam cases into one plunder case violated an earlier agreement he had with the task force to file 12 separate cases.

The task force statement was signed by Finance Undersecretary Cornelio C. Gison.

"The task force is helping Desierto to whitewash the case," Moreno said.

"I caution the task force against participating in cleansing Desierto," Moreno said, adding that the task force statement was an "attempt to redeem Desierto."

Reacting to the same task force statement, Francisco in a press statement yesterday hinted of the possible involvement of finance department officials in Desierto's alleged bungling of the tax credit scam cases against the Chingkoe group and two oil companies.

He challenged Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Gison to "state under oath that no ranking official of the Department of Finance met with top oil company executives prior to the aborted filing of the first Chingkoe plunder case on Dec. 6, 2001."

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| MODERN PURCHASING MANAGEMENT<br>February 16, 2002 | Saturday | 1:00PM-5:00PM |
| EFFECTIVE VEHICLES MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT<br>February 23 - March 9, 2002 | Saturday | 1:00PM-5:00PM |
| WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT<br>February 23 - March 9, 2002 | Saturday | 1:00PM-5:00PM |
| PLANNING DIRECTING AND CONTROLLING SKILLS FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS<br>February 16, 2002 | Saturday | 1:00PM-5:00PM |
| PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT<br>February 16, 2002 | Saturday | 1:00PM-5:00PM |
| ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS<br>February 16, 2002 | Saturday | 1:00PM-5:00PM |
| PERT/CPM<br>February 23 - March 9, 2002 | Saturday | 1:00PM-5:00PM |
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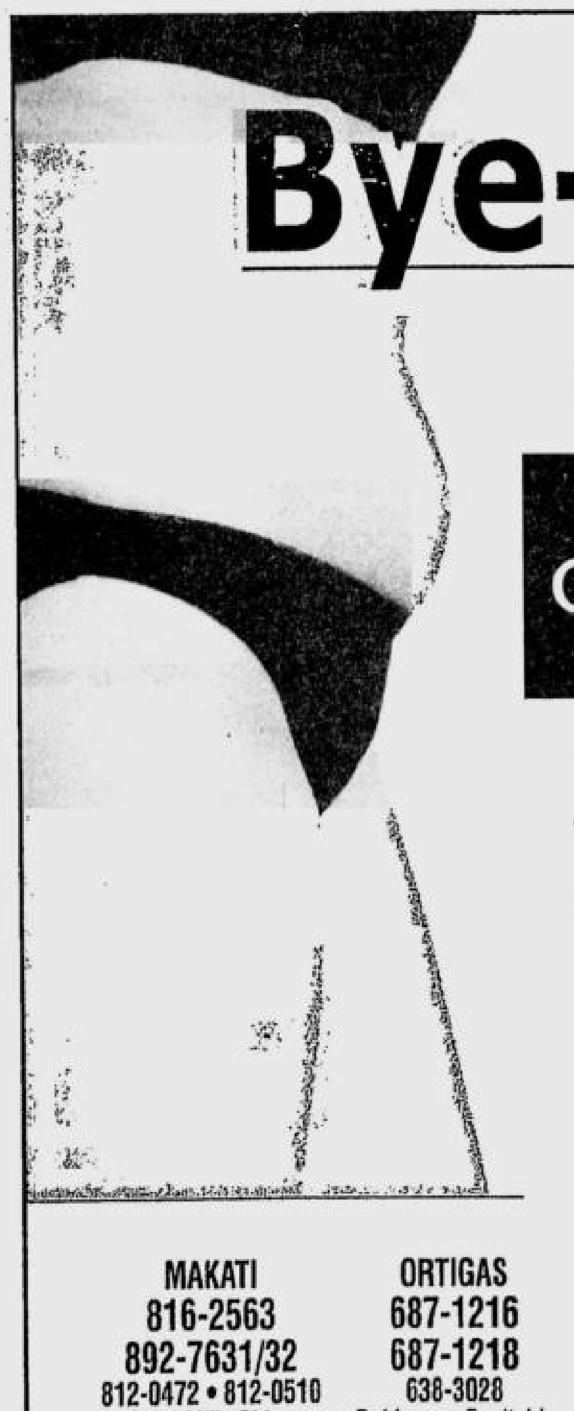

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# Hong Kong maids hold victory parade after shelving of pay cut proposal

HONG KONG—More than 100 foreign maids paraded through the busy streets in downtown Hong Kong Sunday to celebrate the local government's decision to scrap a proposal that would have cut their minimum wages.

The domestic helpers, some wearing glittering hats, marched through car-choked streets and pedestrian plazas, singing and waving small red and yellow flags that read "Victory For Migrant Workers."

"We welcome the move from the Hong Kong government not to cut our current wage," said Connie Bragas-Regalado, chair of United Filipinos in Hong Kong, which organized the parade.

Domestic workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand had aggressively lobbied for support and held numerous large-scale protests since the authorities indicated that their minimum monthly wage of HK$3,670 ($471) might be slashed.

But the government announced Thursday that it wouldn't go ahead with the pay cuts, despite pleas from recession-stricken local employers.

Several Southeast Asian countries have appealed to Hong Kong leaders to refrain from lowering the maids' wages. Those countries' struggling economies rely on the cash migrant workers send home.

On Sunday, the domestic helpers gathered around the Statue Square in Central on their only day off during the week.

"I can't describe how happy I am," said Mary Grace Bautista, 29.

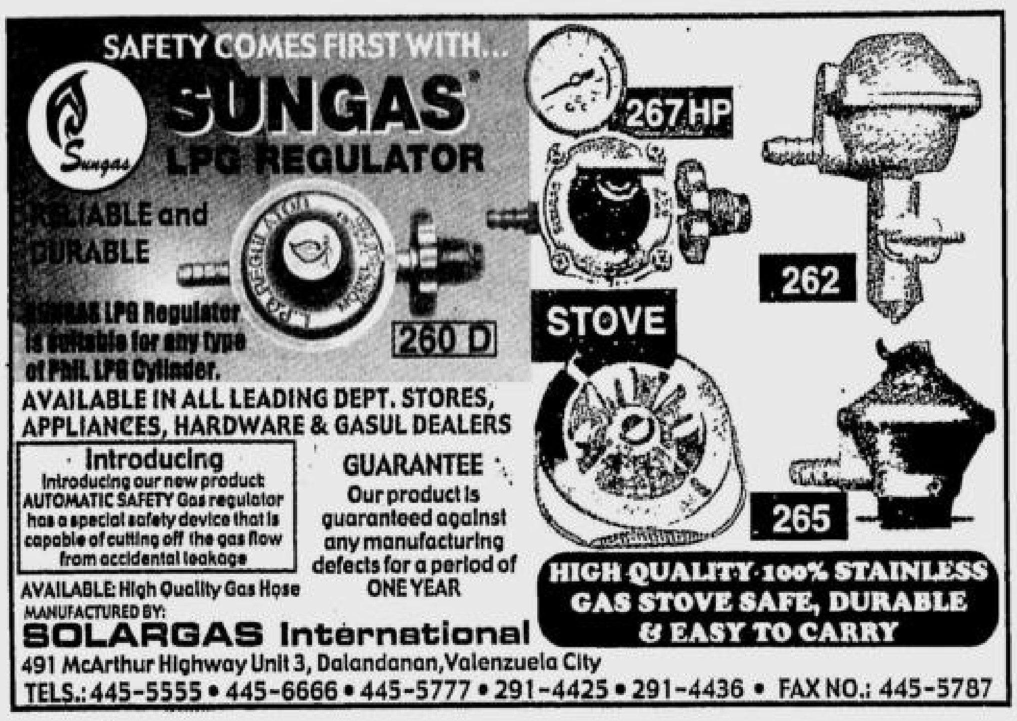
"Cutting the salary means cutting the source of livelihood for us. We hope there'll be no more anti-migrant proposals," said Bautista, who comes from Isabela province.

A 40-year-old Briton, who only gave his surname as Ho, joined the parade with his 3-year-old son, Bong-bong, to show his support.

"Any attack on the maids is an attack on all Hong Kong workers. If their pay is cut, ours will be cut too," said Ho, who came from Yorkshire, Britain but has been living here for many years.

An estimated 180,000 Filipinos and 66,000 Indonesians—with smaller numbers of Nepalese and Thais—support their families back at home by working as live-in maids in the homes of affluent Hong Kong residents.

Typically working 12- to 14-hour days, the maids had their monthly salaries cut from HK$3,860 ($495) during a 1999 recession. **AP**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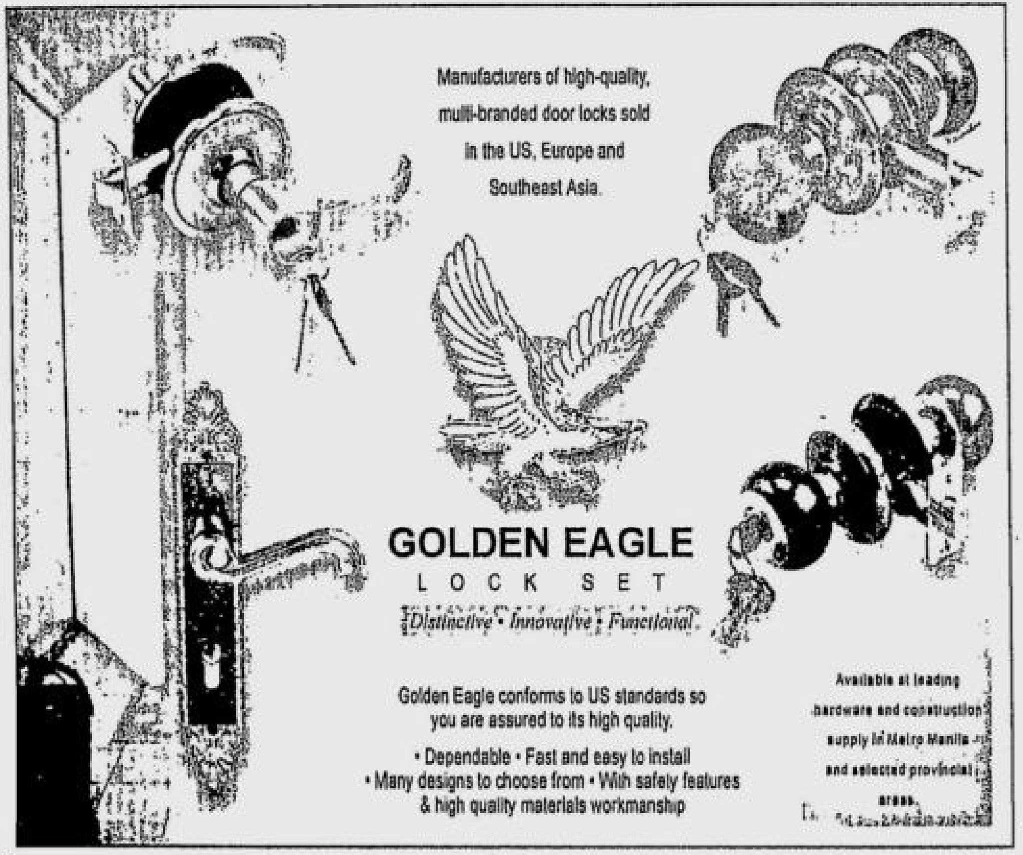
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# Filipino guard admits he failed to stop man with 'explosive' shoes

SAN FRANCISCO—A 57-year-old Filipino man admitted Saturday he made a mistake when he failed to stop a passenger whose shoes tested positive for a suspected explosive.

That mistake forced the evacuation of thousands from the busy San Francisco International Airport Wednesday.

The evacuation caused flight delays around the world and showed how airports and other public venues are still on a hair trigger following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Romeo Abelida, who came to the United States from the Philippines with his wife last July, said he made a crucial mistake when he failed to detain a passenger whose brown loafers had tested positive for the presence of RDX.

His comments were published in the San Jose Mercury News.

RDX is found in explosives used by terrorists in the past. It is also found in fertilizers and other common substances.

"That was my error," said Abelida, who had been on the job for only three months. "Our job is to have full control."

"I wasn't able to control the position while the result was being finished," he said.

Abelida has been suspended by his company, Argenbright Security, which provides security for the airport.

The man with the tainted loafers was never found.

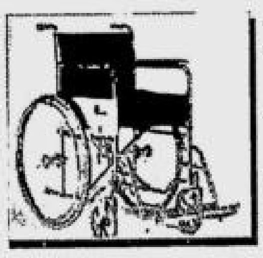
The Federal Aviation Administration is currently investigating the incident, including charges that the security firm failed to notify the FAA for an hour after the incident.

Seven planes left the terminal before it could be closed.

More than 70 percent of the 1,000 security screeners at San Francisco International Airport are Filipino.

The union representing the group is suing the US government over a new regulation invoked after Sept. 11 requiring security screeners at US airports to be citizens.

The day after the incident, two US fighter jets were scrambled to investigate low-flying aircraft circling San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. The scramble was later termed a "non incident" by the FAA. **AFP**



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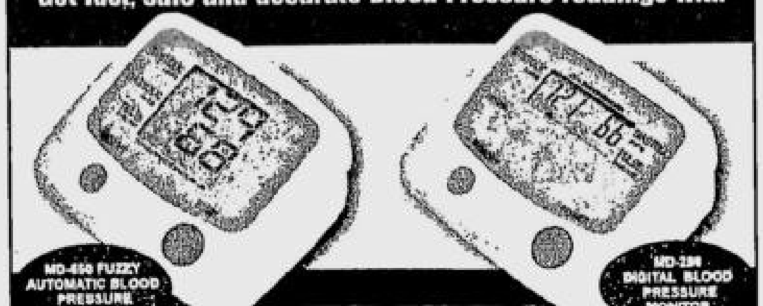

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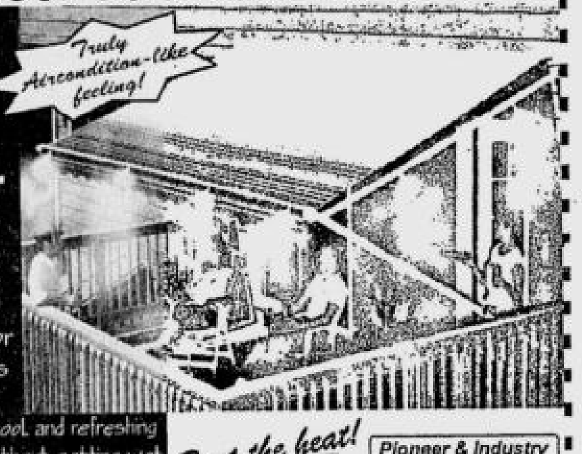

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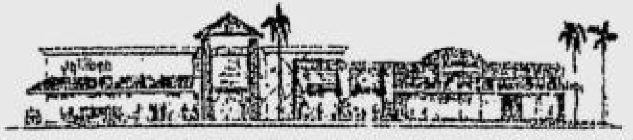

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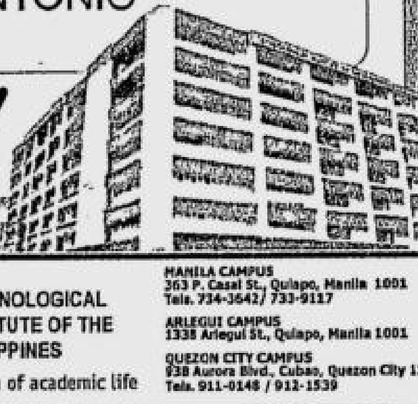

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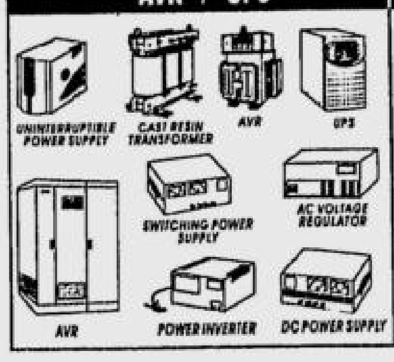

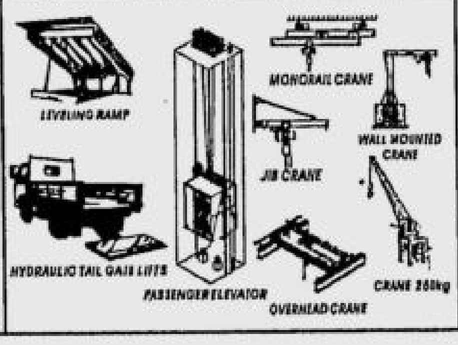

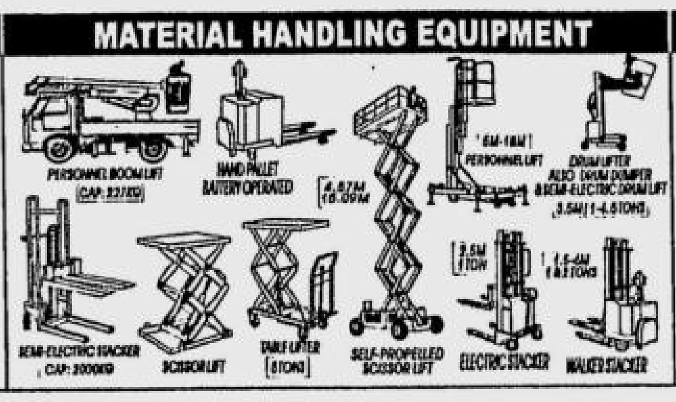

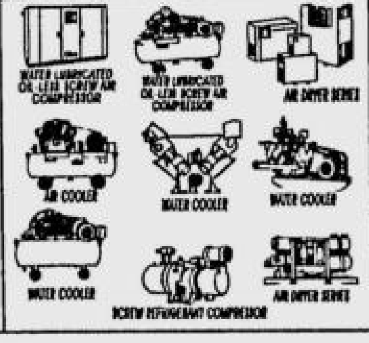

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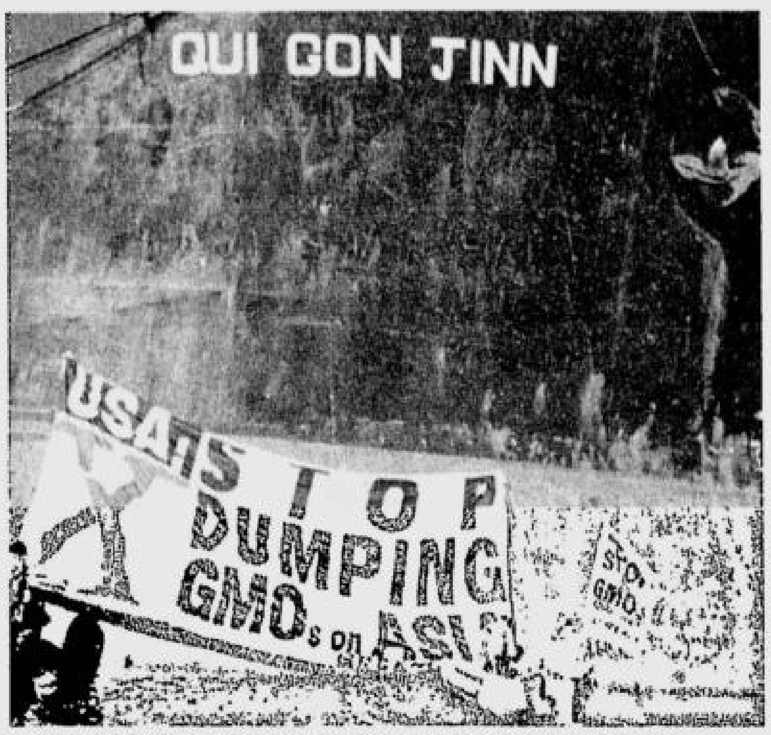
# Greenpeace activists block US soybean shipment in Batangas

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



GREENPEACE activists try to stop shipment of genetically engineered soya from the United States in Batangas. AP

BATANGAS CITY—The Greenpeace environmental group yesterday tried to block the entry of at least 17,000 tons of soya beans being unloaded in the private wharf of the country's biggest supplier of soya oil claiming they were genetically engineered.

The General Milling Corp.'s pier is located in the coastal village of Tabagao, some 6 km southwest of this city.

To add drama to the protest action, at least five Greenpeace activists chained themselves near the unloading equipment of the Qui Gon Jinn cargo ship.

The 190-meter long vessel reportedly arrived here last Friday loaded with soya, wheat and other farm cereals from the US.

The Philippines buys about 300,000 tons of soybeans and over one million tons of soymeal annually, mainly from the US.

Four Greenpeace members aboard two inflatable rubber boats attempted to magnetically attach a yellow banner that read "USA Stop Dumping GMOs on Asia" to the hull of the cargo ship.

Another group of Greenpeace activists tried to occupy the unloading area of GMC early yesterday, but were stopped by the company's security guards.

Dockworkers just watched the ongoing protest actions.

One of the workers asked the INQUIRER if touching the soya was harmful.

After a 30-minute dialogue with the GMC plant manager, Nelson Fandialan, the Greenpeace activists agreed to unchain themselves.

Fundialan, who denied that the soya shipment was genetically engineered, refused to be interviewed.

"Asia should not be a dumping ground for genetically contaminated products," said Beau Baconguis, genetic engineering campaigner for Greenpeace Southeast Asia in the Philippines. "We should not be forced to feed our children with food the rest of the world is increasingly rejecting."

Companies have been developing genetically modified crops to fight pests and plant diseases, but some consumers have balked at eating them fearing they could lead to health problems.

Greenpeace reminded President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is now in the US, of her promise to protect consumers from genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Baconguis recalled that almost a year ago, the President declared her position on GMOs, saying she would not be initiating or pushing for their experimentation.

She added that Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor had promised a system of labeling to ensure that consumers would be able to make an informed choice on genetically modified products.

"To date, there remains no regulation to address concerns on GMOs," Baconquis said.

Greenpeace has claimed that the US genetically engineered industry has exploited the fact that most countries lack regulation on GE food and have no system in place to monitor or test their safety.

GMC is a fully owned Filipino corporation and also has facilities for feed milling, corn milling, agribusiness and fermentation.

Its products include Granny Goose corn chips, Home Pride and Magnifico pasta, Red Star and Baker's Yeast, General Flour, KDO Instant Coffee, FreshRoast Ground Coffee, General Feeds, Home Pride brand soya oil, palm-olein oil, and vegetable oil, and White Tower and Camel starch.

The company's Tabangao plant is a soybean extraction and storage facility and produces mainly soya oil and soymeal for feeds.

Greenpeace said almost all companies in the country that use soya oil source their oil from GMC.

The firm mainly imports soybeans from the United States.

More than 60 percent of the US soya crop is genetically engineered and this is largely mixed with the non-GE crops, Greenpeace claimed.

"As a result, almost all US soya should be considered suspect," Baconguis said.

She said the Philippines leads Asia in soya imports from the US.

Baconguis disclosed that as the protest was going on, the Greenpeace Manila office received a call from Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Marikina Rep. Del de Guzman.

The two legislators said they would both file a resolution today that would call for an investigation of the entry into the country of GE farm products.

"We look at it as an initial victory for the long struggle ahead," she said.

## SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

**CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE)/REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Test of insanity—** Whenever the facts of the case show that defendant's behavior when he committed the crime is such that it creates doubt as to the voluntariness of his acts, the court should conduct appropriate measures to determine the mental state of the person. Our courts are designed not merely for purposes of establishing the commission of a crime but also to ascertain whether a "criminal mind" was responsible for its commission. This is the rationale why our penal laws recognize certain circumstances which exempt a person from criminal liability, among which is insanity. Concomitant with this is the Estrada insanity test laid down by the court in People v. Estrada, which requires determination of two distinct matters: (1) whether the defendant is sufficiently coherent to provide his counsel with information necessary or relevant to constructing a defense; and (2) whether he is able to comprehend the significance of the trial and his relation to it. These matters help ascertain if a person comprehends the state which he is in, particularly the relationship between the defendant and his counsel and the defendants vis-à-vis the court proceedings. The insanity tests should have been particularly observed in cases where the supreme penalty of death may be imposed upon the accused considering that life once taken can never be restored by man. All protective measures must be exercised so as not to wrongfully punish one who does not deserve it regardless of how heinous the crime committed may be. However, the mere fact that accused-appellant's felonious acts are so bizarre does not necessarily mean that he is insane or that he should be immediately subjected to mental examination. Insanity is usually invoked by offenders in order to seek reduction of their penalty, avoid criminal prosecution or just plainly attract compassion instead of condemnation. The court should consider the factual circumstances of the case and whether it was intended for the actual determination of the defendant's mental state or simply to delay or interrupt judicial proceedings or frustrate justice. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Ynares-Santiago, People v. Talavera, G.R. No. 139967, July 13, 2001] DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Monday, February 4, 2002**
**4th Week in Ordinary Time**
**1st Reading: 2 S 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13**
**Gospel: Mk 5:1-20**

Jesus and his disciples arrived on the other side of the lake in the region of the Gerasenes. No sooner did Jesus leave the boat than he was met by a man with evil spirits who had come from the tombs. He lived among the tombs and no one could restrain him, even with a chain. He had often been bound with fetters and chains but he would pull the chains apart and smash the fetters, and no one had the strength to control him. Night and day he stayed among the tombs on the hillsides, and was continually screaming and beating himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell at his feet and cried with a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, son of the Most High God? For God's sake I beg you, do not torment me." He said this because Jesus had commanded, "Come out of the man, evil spirit." And when Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" he replied, "Legion is my name, for we are many." And all of them kept begging Jesus not to send them out of that region.

Now, a great herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside, and the evil spirits begged him, "Send us to the pigs and let us go into them." So Jesus let them go. The evil spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs, and immediately the herd rushed down the cliff and all were drowned in the lake. The herdsmen fled and reported this in the town and in the countryside, so all the people came to see what had happened.

They came to Jesus and saw the man freed of the evil spirits sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the same man who had been possessed by the legion. They were afraid. And when those who had seen it told what had happened to the man and to the pigs, the people begged Jesus to leave their neighborhood.

When Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed begged to stay with him. Jesus would not let him and said, "Go home to your people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you." So he went throughout the country of Decapolis telling everyone how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were astonished.

**Commentary**

*While traveling through the Philippines we see people living side by side with tombs in the cemeteries of some cities and towns. In a certain place in Eastern Visayas I noticed that the houses of the living were worse than the tombs of the dead. Why are they there? Are they possessed by the devil, like the case of the Gerasene demoniac? Certainly not. Is it this society, controlled by demons, that forces them to live there? We, like Jesus and his disciples, must "pass to the other shore of the lake" and fight for social transformation. Our business is not a churchy spirituality, afraid of getting dirty and "impure," but a faith that, going beyond boundaries, helps us to restore all men and women to their human face, to their dignity as children of God.*

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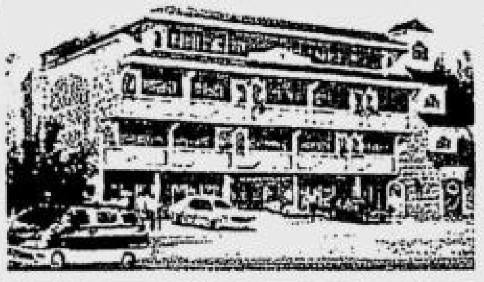

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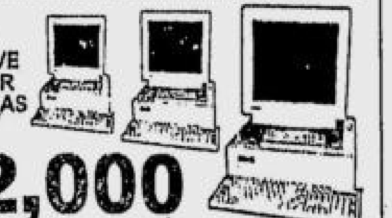

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| Feb. 8-10 | Catering Business Operation | 1,155.00 |
| Feb. 8-11 | Operating a Laundry Shop Business (Small-Scale) *(with field trip)* | 1,732.50 |
| Feb. 9-11 | Fresh Flower Arrangement and Flower Shop Operation and Management *(with field trip)* | 2,310.00 |
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| Feb. 11-13 | Reflexology | 1,540.00 |
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# AFP bombs Abu camp; 20 dead

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Helicopter gunships fired rockets and troops bombed a suspected Muslim guerrilla camp with mortar shells on the island of Jolo, killing at least 20 rebels, a military official said Sunday.

The assault on the Abu Sayyaf camp in the mountainous outskirts of Indanan town took place Friday and government troops were still chasing rebels who splintered and fled, the official said.

Army soldiers caught up with some rebels Sunday in Indanan, setting off a brief firefight that ended without casualties, said Col. Romeo Tolentino, Jolo's army commander.

"We're flushing them out and when we see them in the open, they'll be neutralized," Tolentino said.

An offensive is underway against the Abu Sayyaf group in Jolo and nearby Basilan island, where the rebels are holding Wichita, Kansas missionaries Gracia and Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Deborah Yap. US and Philippine officials have linked the Abu Sayyaf in the past to the al-Qaida terror network.

The United States has been providing Philippine troops with weapons and training to crush the Abu Sayyaf, a loose band of a few hundred men in both islands. They are notorious for kidnappings, piracy and bombings that have killed scores of people and scared away investors and tourists.

The Abu Sayyaf guerrillas pursued by troops in Indanan were with followers of former Muslim regional governor Nur Misuari, who is detained in a police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on a rebellion charge, Tolentino said.

Misuari and his group, the Moro National Liberation Front, led a quarter-century Muslim separatist uprising that killed more than 120,000 people in southern Mindanao, home to about 5 million Muslims. In 1996, Misuari signed a historic peace accord and was elected governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Misuari has been accused of plotting a deadly attack on a Jolo army camp in November to disrupt elections held to choose his successor as governor. Misuari was arrested as he fled to Malaysia. The country later handed him back to Philippine authorities.

Police and soldiers have periodically clashed with Misuari's followers in the south. *AP*

# *Navy rescues 9 from sunken ferry; dozens still missing*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Navy yesterday rescued nine passengers from a ferryboat that sank six days ago in southern Philippine waters, and search and rescue operations were continuing for dozens of others, officials said.

The wooden hulled ML Sugar Diane-2 sank off Tawi-Tawi after being battered by strong waves, officials said.

The official manifest showed there were only 13 passengers onboard the ferry when it left port, but the military's Southern Command has said that as many as 70 people were aboard the boat when it went down.

The survivors were fished out of sea before noon Sunday and immediately rushed to a hospital, said Lt. Rolito Rodriguez, the operations chief of naval forces in the south.

"We are continuing the search for more survivors," he said.

The boat was also carrying a cargo of dried coconut meat when it left Tawi-Tawi for Zamboanga city on Jan. 28.

Officials here said the boat called in a radio report that it had suffered engine trouble and later said that it was caught in rough seas and was taking on water before contact was lost.

Small, wooden-hulled motorboats are usually used to ferry people and cargo between the numerous small islands of the Philippines. *AFP*

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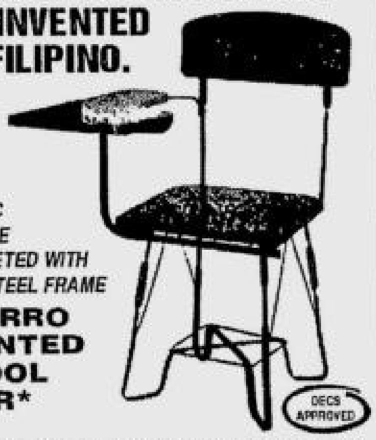

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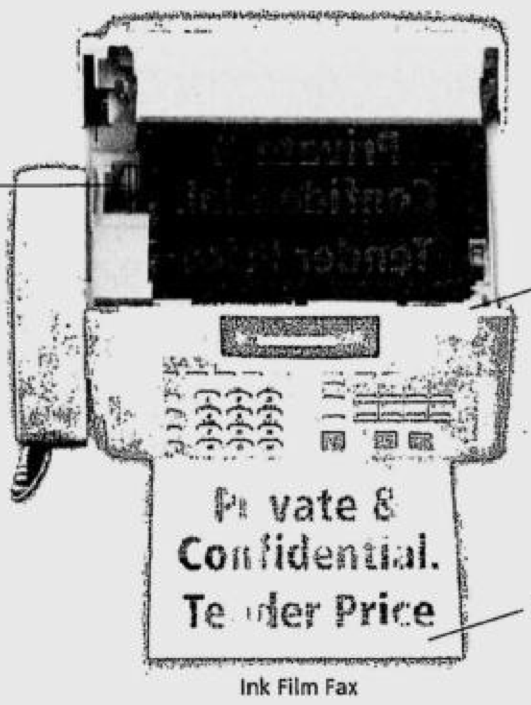

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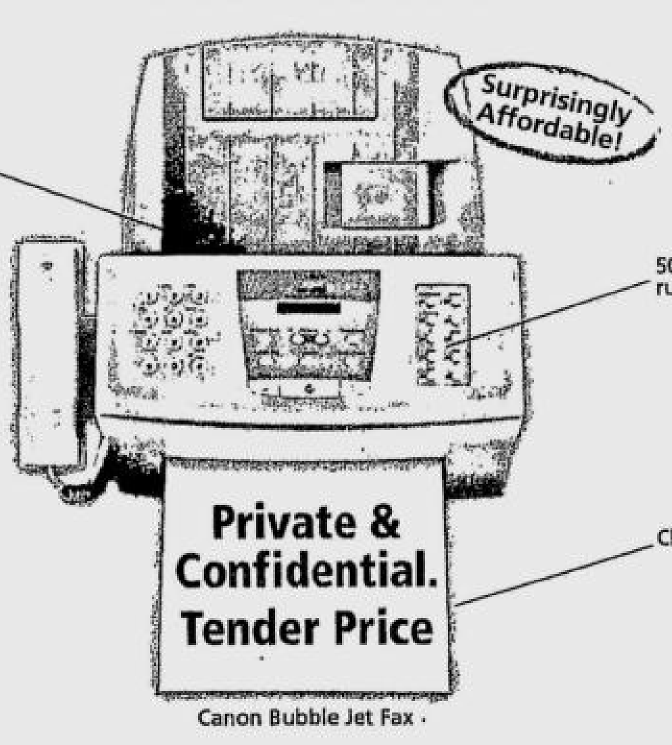
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# OPINION

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## Gartchitorena's folly

**EDITORIAL**

THE SADDEST thing about the Sandiganbayan's surprise reversal last Friday is that it makes the pessimists look prescient. The ruling, which set aside the government's claim to some $627 million in Swiss bank accounts held by bogus Marcos foundations, gave US human rights lawyer Robert Swift the chance for the perfect putdown: The decision, he said, "demonstrates the folly of the Philippine government in trying to gain closure over the Marcos wealth through the Philippine judiciary."

We cannot depend on the country's judges to settle the long-unresolved hidden wealth cases, Swift implies.

Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac tried to look on the bright side, but even she could not ignore the reality that in this case the silver lining was obscured by a very dark cloud. "This is not really a setback because we have proof. But it delays matters again."

Justice delayed, we remind ourselves again and again, is justice denied.

The ruling, written by suspended presiding justice Francis Garchitorena, found that the PCGG, which filed the original forfeiture case in 1991, had failed to present "authenticated translations" of the relevant decisions of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court—decisions that had already ruled that the money belonged to the Marcoses and that much of it was of "illegal provenance."

Instead, the court said the PCGG had merely submitted "simple photocopies." Without the authenticated translations, the Swiss judicial decisions were not "properly presented," and therefore "none of the significant bases for forfeiture" were present.

This sounds much like what laymen will call legal gobbledygook. The decision hinged on what Yorac herself called a "very narrow technical matter." This, we believe, is why Garchitorena was moved to include, as *obiter dictum*, the "discomfort" and "heavy dose of embarrassment" he felt in making the reversal. He was unmaking the landmark decision of September 2000—a high-water mark in the ill-gotten wealth recovery efforts and good governance initiatives of four presidential administrations—on technical grounds, rather than substantive law.

To be sure, there is no such thing as a "mere technicality." The nation's laws are precisely a thicket of technicalities that protect society from the anarchy outside, the disorder that comes in the wake of unresolved conflicts and unchecked competing interests. (What is a court case, after all, but an elaborate conflict resolution mechanism?)

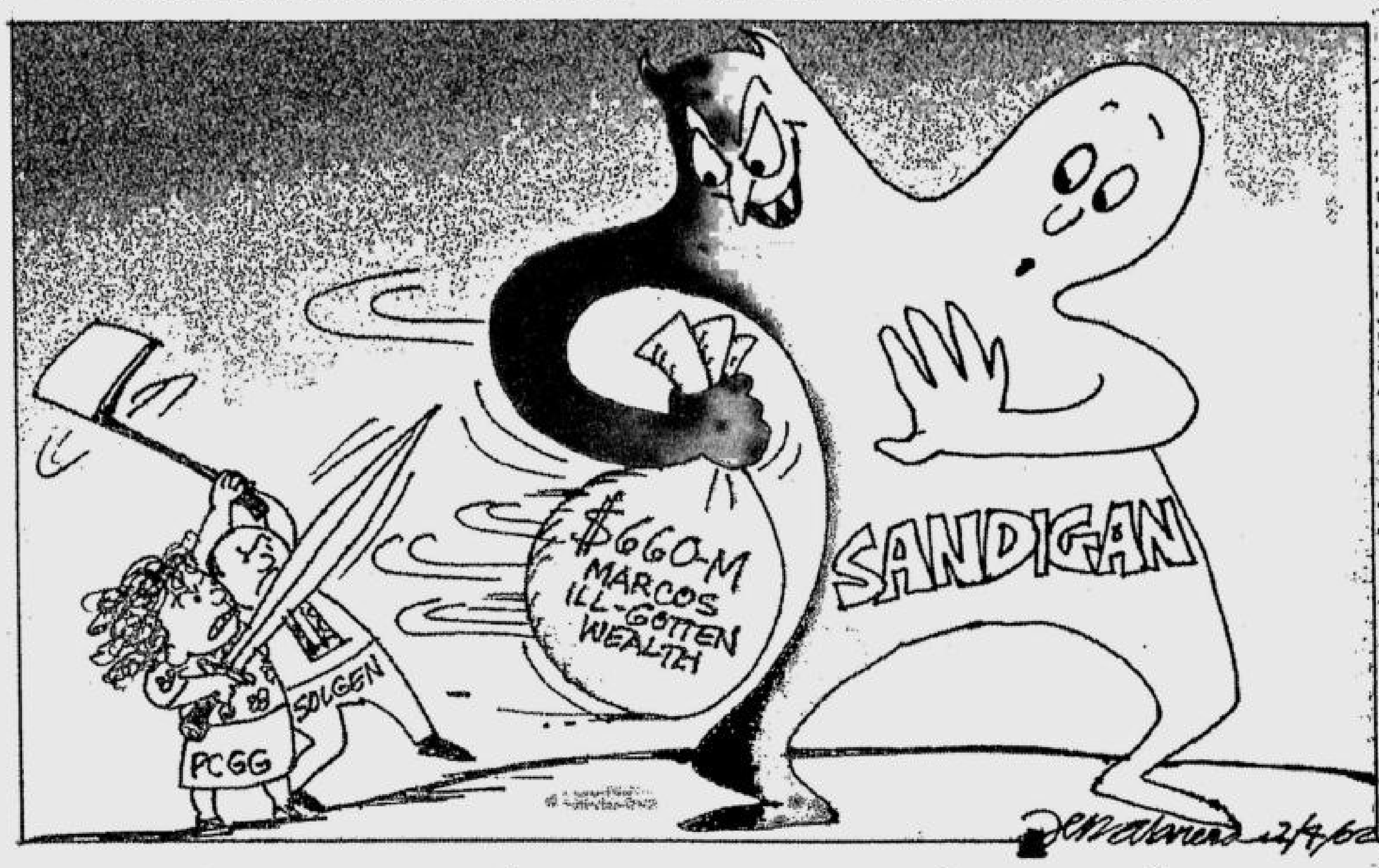
It is important, however, to understand the precise source of Garchitorena's folly. It is not by basing his decision on a technical matter. It is by reversing an earlier decision through a mis-appreciation, deliberate or not, of the available evidence.

PCGG Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento couldn't be more blunt: "We had already given it to them…in 1991. Those were authenticated copies that were given to the anti-graft court. Where are they?"

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who had filed the forfeiture case for the PCGG, said the court was quite literally waist-deep in evidence. "These documents are higher than the waist of Garchitorena." It would be "very difficult," he said, "for a person not to see evidence that is staring him straight in the face."

Unless one is pretending to be blind. Our culture has a wonderfully sardonic saying: It is hard to wake up someone who is pretending to be asleep. Reading the Sandiganbayan's latest decision, we cannot help but think that the saying applies. There is a legal obtuseness at work here, a deliberate refusal to see what is plain to see.

The Swiss courts have already clearly established that all 15 Swiss foundations included in the case were, as Chavez explained, set up and then "collapsed" by the Marcoses from 1967 to 1989. What is Garchitorena waiting for then? The courts' decision has been relayed, at the very least, through photocopies. The PCGG maintains that the originals have been submitted too—11 years ago! Unaccountably, they are apparently nowhere to be seen. We believe that the Supreme Court, to which the PCGG will file an appeal, will eventually restore the government's well-established claim to the Marcos funds. But at what cost? Garchitorena's folly makes the pessimists wise.



## A Solomonic solution to PAL-Cebu Pacific row

### AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

THE DOGFIGHT between Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific Airways over the country's four new flight frequencies to Korea crystallizes a vital issue that directly affects the riding public. Here is the issue in plain, layman's terms according to PAL:

- Flight entitlements are sovereign rights that belong to all Filipinos. They are won in difficult negotiations with other countries and are part of the national patrimony. And like any other economic resource, these rights should be exploited and utilized for the benefit of the nation.
- In the current dispute, PAL proposes to share the four new rights equally. It will use its two frequencies to add to its Cebu-Seoul service—a route that is a proven lifesaver for the vital tourism industry in Cebu. Because of these flights, Koreans are now the largest foreign visitor group to Cebu, sustaining an industry on the verge of collapse after the negative Japanese travel advisory last October.
- Cebu Pacific, on the other hand, wants all four frequencies to itself. It will use these for its Manila-Seoul service that has been long-planned but never operated. This, despite the fact that there is already a glut of capacity on this route—21 flights a week operated by three carriers deploying wide-body aircraft. Indeed, there is no economic justification to add four more flights to an already crowded route while the underserved Cebu-Seoul route cries for more frequencies.
- The crux of the dispute is this: There are only four new frequencies up for grabs. There are two Philippine carriers vying for the rights. The most equitable solution is to split the four frequencies down the middle—two for each carrier. Fair, *di ba*?
- It is ironic that Cebu Pacific, whose franchise under Republic Act 7151 requires it to make Cebu its base of domestic and international operations, would violate the terms of its franchise and deny Cebuanos direct air services to Korea at this critical period.
- Government authorities must not allow this. They are duty-bound to implement the policy directions set by Congress and those mandated by EO 219 promoting Cebu as a new gateway and directing domestic carriers to service those new gateways.
- This entire squabble could have been avoided had we adopted the "seat capacity" formula during the air talks with Korea last November. This would have resulted in at least 10 more weekly flights for all Philippine carriers, instead of the four we were finally granted. This would have allowed both Cebu Pacific to operate all its desired flights to Seoul and PAL to increase frequencies from Cebu and Manila—and even allowed Air Philippine to amount flights if it wanted to.
- But that is water under the bridge; we now have to make do with just four new flights allotted to local airlines. And a fair sharing of the rights between our two flag carriers in certainly in the national interest.
- Along this line, the good news is the reported change of heart of Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap regarding the proposal to seek a fifth frequency from the Koreans, to satisfy both PAL and Cebu Pacific. Such a move, while well-intentioned, may not be in the best interest of the country at this time. That additional frequency will not be granted without reciprocal concessions to the Korean side, and we still do not know what the Koreans will ask for. We may be opening a Pandora's box here.
- Air rights carry enormous economic potential, and if properly utilized and developed, can lead to greater opportunities for livelihood, trade and tourism. It thus behooves a nation's flag carriers not to squander such precious opportunities by not using available flight entitlements.
- On this point, PAL should be commended for talking a risk and investing in new routes such as Cebu-Seoul. PAL pioneered direct flights between the two cities at a time when no other carriers deemed it to be viable. The airline invested considerable resources and effort in building the market and promoting the service.
- Today, two years later, the effort is paying dividends. The service is enjoying good loads and the Cebuano community is benefiting in terms of tourist arrivals from a new, growing market in Korea. Overall, the country also benefits from the positive impression these tourists gain of their visit to Cebu. Our aviation authorities should thus encourage more flights from Cebu, instead of overcrowded Manila.
- This is not to say that Cebu Pacific, with two weekly frequencies on the Manila-Seoul route is doomed to fail. Contrary to its fear that this frequency is not commercially viable, such in fact provides a secure foundation which the airline can build upon to expand its Korean services.
- If Cebu Pacific needs any reassurance that it can be done, it need only to look at PAL's experience in Korea. In recent years, PAL opened two developmental routes, Cebu-Seoul and Manila-Pusan, starting with only two flights a week. These have now expanded to four times weekly—proof of their commercial potential. There is no reason why Cebu Pacific, if it invests and develop its service assiduously, should not be successful on the well-established Manila-Seoul route.

## Facts

### THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

JOHN Gibson, a Briton, says (PDI, 1/31/02) he is mystified by the opposition to American troops in Basilan. He offers five facts in defense of it.

One, people's lives are at stake. The Abu Sayyaf has beheaded some of its victims, earning for it the right to be called one of the world's most ruthless terrorist groups. Would you be opposed to the American troops if you had a loved one in their hands?

Two, the fact that the Armed Forces of the Philippines has bungled the job of running the Abu Sayyaf to the ground means that, "they have forfeited any right to enjoy our confidence." Who says that group is just a small band of kidnappers?

Three, Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon notwithstanding, tourists will not flock to this country with terrorists like the Abu Sayyaf roaming around.

Fourth, countries like the United Kingdom do not regard the presence of American troops on their soil as compromising their sovereignty. Why should we do so?

Five, Zamboanga overwhelmingly welcomed the American troops. "Who is more competent to judge whether Americans can help to end this threat: the people most directly affected or newspaper columnists eager to enhance their anti-imperialist credentials?"

I agree: People's lives are at stake. That is cause only for concern and a sense of urgency. That is a reason only to pressure the government to do something about it, or resign. Why on earth should that mean foreign troops? The American Midwest harbors the Ku Klux Klan and parts of Europe harbor skinheads, both savaging people of color. They may not behead their victims, but the KKK has been known to hang blacks and the skinheads to burn Turkish families to death. Why not import troops from Asia and Africa to help the American and European governments put an end to them?

But precisely people's lives are at stake. Those are not only the kidnap victims of the Abu Sayyaf, those are the Muslim communities that stand to be ravaged by a war that divides people into terrorists and anti-terrorists, pro-Americans and anti-Americans. Who will grieve for them?

So the AFP has bungled the job: Again, why should that mean foreign troops? As I said before, that is like arming the populace to deal with crime because the cops are useless. The AFP is useless? Then abolish the AFP. Better still, refuse to pay taxes until the government does its job. For foreign governments, stop giving aid to the Philippines until it rescues their nationals.

How else call a group that is "down to a hundred demoralized men," as the AFP puts it, but a small band of kidnappers? The danger precisely lies in calling every group that kidnaps foreigners and shows barbaric behavior a "terrorist group," with all its political consequences. I said a couple of years ago that Erap made the mistake of treating a largely peace-and-order problem as a political one, and launching a full-scale war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. I remain convinced of it. Terrorist groups that are in league with al-Qaida have better things to do than to spend their time spiriting away the guests of leisure lairs for ransom money. The fact that the AFP cornered the Abu Sayyaf at Lamitan hospital and let them escape—a shameful behavior, as Gibson rightly says—must show the smallness of the opposition.

As to tourists not coming in with the Abu Sayyaf, what, they're going to come in with American troops playing their very real war games? They're going to come in with an American senator predicting the country will be the next Afghanistan? They're going to come in with George Bush himself depicting the country as an al-Qaida haven?

Gibson presumes one very wrong thing. Which is that the American troops are here for the Abu Sayyaf. And they will disappear as soon as the Abu Sayyaf disappears, like Clint Eastwood after cleaning a town of its dregs. In fact, even Clint Eastwood does not. As he showed in "High Plains Drifter," hiring a gunslinger to rid a town of its bad eggs is the worst idea any town can have. Jovito Salonga has a point when he says those troops are not going away. Even before Sept. 11, the Americans had already been eyeing the coast of General Santos as a port for American warships and had been pressing the Philippine government for a logistical agreement to make this happen. That security, like the one given by Marcos during martial law, may be fine for tourists and guests like Gibson. It is not fine for us.

The Philippines is not Britain. As Allen Hubbard, a more serious foreign observer, shows, the United States has a law that calls on its government to clean up the toxic wastes it leaves behind. It has complied with that law in other countries, but not the Philippines. At least 80 people, many of them children, have already died in the Cabcom evacuation sites, the clearest sign the United States is not particularly concerned about the consequences of its interventions in this country. Gibson is right when he says there are lives at stake here. He is wrong about whose lives.

Zamboanga is not part of Muslim Mindanao, and it is Muslim Mindanao, not Clara Lobregat, that will bear the brunt of the American intervention against "terrorism," a horrendous way of reducing the political situation in the South. Zamboanga also voted overwhelmingly for Erap's candidates in the last elections, welcoming as it also did Erap's effort to obliterate the MILF. That doesn't make its predilections representative of the nation.

Finally, who is most competent to judge this issue: "A foreigner who has lived in this country for five years," as Gibson describes himself, who will eventually go home but would like to impress the natives of this country with his ignorance of it before he does? Or those who have lived all their lives here, out of choice or necessity, and who stand to reap the fruits of the delusions of people like him?

* * *

*Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com*

# Best for GMA to appear

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel has proposed that President Macapagal address a joint session of Congress in order to clarify all the issues about the Balikatan exercises and the US involvement here. I think this is an excellent idea inasmuch as she is the sole authority in the Visiting Forces Agreement Commission following her issuance of EO 67. Instead of the Senate calling Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who appears to have had a minimum input into the exercises, and presidential adviser on international competitiveness and foreign affairs Roberto Romulo to shed light on the controversial US involvement, as Sen. Blas Ople wants to do, it would help to clarify issues once and for all if GMA herself appeared. After all, Guingona may have little to say on this issue, while Romulo may not want to say anything.

* * *

**In New York, GMA was reported to have admitted that there is a need to improve her government's communication with the people on the Balikatan exercises. The joint session of Congress could be the right opportunity. Appearing at such a joint session would be unprecedented, as the President normally appears before Congress only to deliver the State of the Nation Address every fourth Monday of July. But then, it could be argued that these are unprecedented and extraordinary times. Recall that US President Bush made such an unprecedented appearance before a joint session of the US Congress just after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, to report to the entire American people on the crisis.**

* * *

The Philippines may be said to be ahead of the World Economic Forum of world leaders and top international business executives. The WEF is reported to have shifted the focus of the anti-terrorism fight beyond mere military action, and toward combating the crippling global poverty, which is among the root causes of terrorist violence. As US Secretary of State Colin Powell eloquently put it, "We have to go after poverty, we have to go after despair, we have to go after hopelessness...We have to put hope back into the heart of people. We have to show people who might move in the direction of terrorism that there is a better way."

But even before Ms Macapagal showed up in New York where she sought to draw the attention of the international gathering as much to poverty-alleviation in Mindanao as to military action against terrorism, the administration had drawn up a pump-priming plan for the economy in the amount of P40 billion, of which P11 billion will be immediately released by the agriculture and environment and natural resources departments. As this column wrote, very much a part of this pump-priming is the allocation of an initial P100 million for the construction of a circumferential road in war-torn Basilan, the country's poorest province. The US government is said to be ready to contribute to its alleviation.

* * *

**I had a talk with AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya last Friday evening at the wake for the late West Point alumnus Col. Teodorico Sanchez Sr., and General Abaya, who saw action in Basilan as commander of the First Infantry Division toward the later part of year 2000, was happy over the government's plan to construct that circumferential road. He felt that the new road would end the isolation of the strife-torn island and open it to badly needed commerce (not to mention making it easier for AFP troops to chase bandit groups like the Abu Sayyaf).**

* * *

As my friend, Mindanao business and civic leader Joji Ilagan-Bian, wrote in her business column in this paper recently, pump-priming public investments have become critical for the big island inasmuch as private investments there have been going down since 1998. Joji points out that between 1999 and 2000, the height of the Estrada war campaign in Mindanao, investments dropped by 29 percent and as of the third quarter of last year, investments in Southern Mindanao were only less than 25 percent of the previous year's figures. She stressed that declining investments will bring more unemployment, compounding the high poverty incidence in the island and exacerbating security problems. But accelerating public investments means getting a bigger slice of the national budget into Mindanao, especially in infrastructure that will help the agriculture and fisheries sectors and the e-service sector, but Joji admits that Mindanaoans has not been too successful in cornering it. But the "paradigm shift" after Sept. 11 may have changed priorities.

* * *

**One of my favorite apostolates is to help in the efforts of a Catholic group called Retrouvaille Philippines to strengthen and save the family as the basic institution of Filipino society, principally by attracting husbands and wives whose marriages are threatened or on the verge of break up to attend healing weekend seminars. Retrouvaille opines that many couples have been helped over the past 10 years and their marriages saved by these seminars. Retrouvaille will hold two seminars simultaneously in Tagaytay City this weekend, from Friday to Sunday, Feb. 8-10. One will be at the Merciful Sisters Retreat House in Tagaytay for couples with troubled and hurting marriages; the second seminar, a Marriage Encounter 2002, will be held at the Angels Hills Retreat House for couples with "slight problems" who want to enrich their relationship. For particulars on seminar, call Tom and Ruby del Castillo at 0919-815-7601 or 931-2413 and 932-3750, or Tessie Reyes at 0917-538-8970, and for Seminar II, Linda de Ramos, Tel. Nos. 633-9298 or 633-9334.**

# 'Game na?'

**KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO**

*Carlos Isagani T. Zarate*

MAKE no mistake about it. George Junior, the world's "chief of police," already declared in no uncertain terms what our officials—both civilians and military—have been obscure about, leaving many, including perhaps those in the administration, to second-guess the real intent of the deployment of US troops in Mindanao as part of the expanded "war on terrorism."

It is not a mere "exercise" or "war games" (although engaging in war is one of America's games), but a US-led military operation to wipe out the country's "terrorists," for now, represented by the Abu Sayyaf. Contrary to earlier pronouncements, American troops will stay in Mindanao, and, even elsewhere in the country, for as long as it takes, to achieve its objectives and protect, primarily, its own interest.

The arrival of the US troops in Mindanao and the start of Balikatan reopened the deep-seated thorny issues that plague the island's history of struggle against colonization.

Almost a century ago, on May 2, 1902, the first recorded armed confrontation between the Moro people and the US armed colonizers, led by one Col. Frank Baldwin, took place. The Moro fighters were defending their forts in Binadayan and Pandapatan in Lanao, which was then occupied by US troops.

The present generation must not also forget that on May 1, 1899, after the Spaniards left, the Americans immediately occupied Jolo. And, in Aug. 20 of the same year, Sultan Jamalul Kiram II of the then independent Sultanate of Jolo was forced into signing the so-called Bates Treaty, named after Brig. Gen. John C. Bates, which legitimized the US claim of sovereignty over the sultanate and its subjects. The Bates Treaty effectively bound the Moros from waging a new front in the anti-colonial war, which was then raging in Luzon and some parts of the Visayas.

That also allowed the United States to concentrate and consolidate its colonizing forces in the "Christian front."

However, after the defeat of the Filipino nationalist forces in the north, the United States unilaterally abrogated the said treaty upon the recommendation of Gen. Leonard Wood, who served as the first military governor of the US-created Moro Province, and later as Philippine governor general. With the abrogation of the treaty, the United States started its "pacification campaign" against the Moro inhabitants. General Wood was recorded to have said that between 1903-1906, only 3,000 were killed by the US forces, although many historians contested such claim considering that in the infamous Bud Dajo, Jolo massacre alone, some 1,500 Moro inhabitants, mostly women and children, were already killed.

The "campaign" in Mindanao even earned for then Capt. John "Black Jack" Pershing, a direct promotion to brigadier general, bypassing other senior officers.

It was so then and it is still so now. The "second coming" of the US troops runs like a sequel to a never-ending story that only brought into the fore old wounds, divisions and distrust. Of betrayals and struggles.

* * *

The Catholic Bishops' "qualified" endorsement of the war games came as a total disappointment, to say the least. The bishops' support of "Balikatan," which they claim as being reflective of the "expressed will" of Mindanaoans, is a complete departure of the Church's peaceful ministry. The bishops indeed have a lot to explain. What, for instance, is the barometer used to measure "expressed will" and how did they arrive at such a dangerous presumption?

The bishops' stand on Balikatan is reminiscent of how once, during the early years of martial law, they also embraced it believing that it will help deliver the country toward a "new society." This time, their support, though coupled with a caveat that for as long as the US troops will not overstep its limits, their presence are welcome, conveniently disregards the fact that as in all its military forays, the United States have always justified all "collateral damage" it committed, including unilateral actions.

While many, apparently including the bishops, would argue that there is a need to swallow our national pride and bargain our sovereignty, if only to put an end to the Abu Sayyaf, it still left many nagging questions on where this will lead us.

And, in light of George Junior's recent pronouncements on the war against terrorism, it would be at the height of naïveté' for one to believe that the "war games" will not be attended by massive dislocations, and even deaths of civilians, in the areas where these military operations will be held, not to mention its long-term social cost. More importantly, too, the bishops' support of the "war games," whether they are aware of it or not, will definitely put a strain, if not a set-back, on whatever gains have been made by the inter-faith dialogues in Mindanao.

Even so, I believe that there are many Abubakar, Tarhata, Juan and Maria who can see beyond the lame political and moral justifications of the "games" being waged again in Mindanao.

* * *

IN MEMORIAM. Davao's legal community mourned the passing of two esteemed *compañeros* last month: Florante "Flor" E. Garcia, 43, public servant, human rights activist, revolutionary; and, Ateneo de Davao Law School Dean Emeritus Epifanio E. Estrellado, 82, consummate gentleman, married only to his profession, but in the process "fathered" hundreds of *compañeros* and *compañeras*. May they win their respective case before the Supreme Judge.

* * *

*Comments at karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo.com*

# A virtue greater than nationalism

**COMMENTARY**

*Dean Jorge Bocobo*

RESENTMENT against America seems to be the common political emotion of the small minority of Filipinos that have opposed the Balikatan combat training exercises. From the ever chivalrous Vice President Teofisto Guingona, to the irrepressible, but boringly tendentious Jose Ma. Sison, (our Communist guru from a different time zone), the spectrum of people opposed to the sudden arrival of US military personnel spans a broad intellectual and ideological spectrum. Even if their actual nose count is small and an overwhelming majority of the public does not share their views, those opposed cannot be ignored, nor should they.

Many committed nationalists and patriots cannot countenance the reengagement with America that the Balikatan exercises represent for reasons that are deep-seated and complex. The roots of anti-American resentment in the Philippines are historical and begin at the very cradle of the republic. Whether evolved and expressed as nationalism, or patriotism, or national democracy, or sovereignty, or defense of the Constitution (dear oh dear, the Constitution!), a pool of hidden resentment and buried grudge, has found plenty of justification in the tragic, turbulent and often one-sided relationship between these two countries.

In recent memory, a long period of American support for the dictator Marcos, which made a hypocrite of its larger anti-totalitarian stance in the world, has earned the US government the everlasting enmity of many civil libertarians in the Philippines and everyone who fought martial law because of its inconsistent policies in that regard.

Just a little farther back in history, is the perception, right or wrong, that after World War II, America was more preoccupied with erstwhile enemies Japan and Germany, to the neglect of colony and ally, the Philippines. Who would not feel abandoned?

But there is some graver matter in the ancient bedrock of Philippine-American relations on which the hard heart of an almost biblical resentment that militant nationalists seem to be consumed and blinded by, finds its roots. For example, the matter of those reported 600,000 Filipino skeletons and 15,000 American ones, from the Philippine-American War, (in which the hyphen is the escaping Spanish Empire), cannot be kept in history's closet forever. Fossils of that forgotten, and unacknowledged war, they will forever be turning up in our modern excavations. They are ghosts to haunt both Philippine and American national consciences, clamoring for the eternal rest of recognition, and of being learned from by both our peoples and governments.

That has not happened for the Philippine-American War of more than a century ago. It has not achieved the closure of monuments because America has denied that it ever happened. Conventional American history does not mention the very holocaust which bound the Philippines forever to America's own manifest destiny as her only adopted child and colony.

A big symbolic step could be taken by the US government to heal this historic hurt by causing the return of the church bells of Balangiga, which have been held as war booty for over a century by a conquering US military unit. They are symbolic of the tragedy that was Samar in that grim season of death, that howling wilderness of vengeance and massacre that began in September, 1901 and ended only after some 50,000 Samarnons lost their lives to the rampaging armies of Gen. Jack Smith, on orders from Arthur MacArthur (father of Douglas MacArthur) for supporting the *Katipunan* in its continuing war for Philippine independence. But the *Katipunan* had brilliant victories too, like Balangiga, and it fought the good fight, as good as any that George Washington fought against the British armies. The Philippine-American War took a horrific toll in lives and property and deserves a proper memorial in the hearts of both nations.

The "official" American depiction of the Philippine colonial period, from 1898 to 1946, remains understandably focused on the efforts to create another country in America's image, with a proper democratic government and civil institutions, a universal public school system, social infrastructure and Hollywood culture all distilled from the best and the worst of late 19th century American experience.

These elements were stitched together, and brought to life, almost like Frankenstein, by the electric energy of an idealistic America fresh from conquering a continent and its first colony. Meanwhile, the Philippines was a country just emerging from three centuries trapped in the convent of the Spanish Taliban. Fifty years of social engineering later, the end result was that we became, in the piquant phrase of one author, "little brown Americans." But not to worry, we have had more than another half century now to create some of our own infamous history and could proudly claim to be "little brown Filipinos."

The ability to acknowledge the ineffably tragic things that happen between two countries is just as hard and rare as among human beings. But it is as cathartic and therefore necessary to the strengthening of the mutual alliances and the furtherance of common ideals, necessary for survival in a suddenly very perilous world. That would be a virtue greater than nationalism for both America and the Philippines.

# Wrong news on Alcordo

**READERS' ADVOCATE**

*Raul J. Palabrica*

DISMISSED. On leave. Resigned. Which of these descriptions correctly apply to the president of the National Power Corp., Jesus Alcordo?

Last Jan. 21, the entire Luzon region was hit by a blackout. The power failure happened a day after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo marked her first year in office. With coup jitters still in the air, the outage caused a lot of anxiety among the populace.

The following day, news about the breakdown was reported at the lower left hand portion of the INQUIRER's front page. The headline read "Blackout hits Luzon; Napocor head fired."

The report said that "National Power Corp. chief Jesus Alcordo yesterday lost his job hours after Luzon was hit by a blackout that once again fueled rumors of a coup d'état." Another sentence read "President Macapagal kept her word that heads would roll in the state-owned power firm if another blackout followed the power outage that hit the entire Luzon in November last year."

On Jan. 23, the newspaper's Second Front Page carried the headline "Napocor chief: I'm on leave." In brief, the news reported that Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. denied that Alcordo had been fired and that he has been "on leave" since that November blackout.

Alcordo was also quoted to have said that he resigned as early as November but was asked by the President to stay on until his replacement is appointed.

## Hurt feelings

The three children of Alcordo decried the conflicting reports about their father's employment status at the Napocor. Their emotion-filled letter to the INQUIRER read, in part: "We cannot sufficiently express the hurt that this newspaper has brought upon us by printing this headline ( 'Napocor head fired') that was clearly not researched and confirmed to be fact.

"If you will kindly check your records, you reported late last year that our father had resigned from the Napocor. He in fact submitted his resignation November last year but was asked to stay on since no replacement had been found.

"Contrary to what many people still believe, Dad never lobbied for this position. He is not there because some Cebu business groups asked him a favor to look after his interests—this was never his motivation for serving the government.

"We would like to point out that what you print affects the lives and reputation of those you write about, and the general public takes as fact the words that you put in your articles. We feel that in this particular case, the facts regarding our father were set aside for a headline that perhaps in your opinion would get the attention of more readers."

## Evaluation

I checked the past issues of the INQUIRER to verify the statement of the Alcordo children that the newspaper had earlier reported their father's resignation. They were right. Page 7 of the Dec. 7, 2001 issue carried the news (headlined "Napocor chief quits") that Alcordo had resigned but President Macapagal had not yet acted on his resignation.

Interestingly, the Dec. 7, 2001 news about Alcordo's resignation and the Jan. 22, 2002 report on his losing his post as a result of the blackout were written by the same reporter.

The statements of Energy Secretary Perez and Alcordo denying the report that the latter was dismissed from his position by the President have, up to the present, remained unchallenged. No one has come out, nor any document has been presented, to show that their statements are untrue.

It is clear therefore that Alcordo could not have lost his job as a result of the recent power outage because he had given up his post as early as the first week of December 2001. The headline "Napocor head fired" did not accurately reflect the true circumstances behind Alcordo's quitting the helm of the power firm. Resignation and dismissal are miles apart from each other in terms of nature and effect.

The Alcordo siblings have reason to feel bad about that headline and accompanying news report. The INQUIRER's rules on accuracy and fairness in reporting the news were not observed in the preparation and publication of those items..

The INQUIRER apologizes to Alcordo and his loved ones for the error. It hopes this expression of regret will somehow ease the pain that they suffered on account of the headline and news report in question. The appropriate steps have been taken by the editorial staff to prevent a repeat of the incident.

## Youngblood

I received an interesting letter from a reader (Ed Jensen) complaining about two articles that came out recently in the Youngblood section of the newspaper. Although this has nothing to do with news and photos, I think the points raised by the reader deserve to be shared with the public.

He wrote: "I was terribly disappointed to read in your Jan. 29 issue of Youngblood the article entitled 'Shoplifter' that somehow sends the message that it is OK to be a shoplifter. Then in the Jan. 24 issue, the contribution in that section entitled 'Sex and the single Pinay' started with the line...'I really want to have sex' and goes on to justify her craving for sex no matter how.

"What ever happened to correct values? I appreciate the ads that are trying very hard to impart the correct values to our people. Then here comes the INQUIRER, the only newspaper in our office, printing contributions that do the opposite. I'm sure there are better contributions from your readers that can be featured in your newspaper.

"I am terribly disappointed."

When told about the complaint, the Opinion Page editor said he thought hard and long before he gave the clearance to publish the two articles. He respects the reader's opinion about the articles but he feels the articles should be taken with a grain of salt, and not taken at their face value.

The editor is for giving our young writers wide latitude in writing about subjects that are close to their heart or which they may have experienced. That's an effective way of bringing out and developing their latent literary talents.

With regard to the "sexy" article, he thinks it was written in a humorous or playful manner. The writer did a good job in expressing her thoughts about an otherwise "not for public discussion" subject without sounding obscene or immodest.

On the other hand, the "shoplifter" article struck the editor as the writer's way of expressing his frustration about certain things and the only means available to him to get some release from such bottled feeling was to write about it. He thinks the writer "was just trying to pull the readers' legs."

Having presented both sides, I'll let the readers decide on whether the subject articles (and articles of similar nature that may appear in the future) should grace the pages of the newspaper.

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*The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate @inquirer.com.ph.*

## Enact laws benefiting the elderly

During the 11th Congress, there were around 15 to 20 bills filed in both chambers of Congress all designed to benefit the senior citizens. However, there was not a single bill that become a law. All ended up gathering cobwebs in the different committees not for lack of material time but due to insincerity, indifference toward the elderly and sheer callousness among legislators.

Now, in the Senate alone there are 25 bills filed again to benefit senior citizens not counting the bills filed in the Lower House. But the big question is: Do our lawmakers have the will to pass the good ones into law? The legislative machine works so excruciatingly slow that I'm afraid the 12th Congress will go without a single bill for the elderly made into law.

May I call the attention of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to certify all bills designed to benefit the senior citizens as urgent. If the President can certify them, then we are convinced she has sympathy for the poor and the elderly.

I am calling the attention of the president of the National Federation of Senior Citizens as well as the provincial federations to bond together and ask Congress and Malacañang to hurry the passage of these bills.—**WENS JOMAO-AS, president, Barangay Emmanuel I, Senior Citizens Center, Cluster N, DBB-E, Cavite**

## Umbrage at bribery allegations

I take umbrage at Ramon Tulfo's "On Target" column of January 24 and 26, 2002 and his column in the tabloid "Bandera" of January 28, 2002 which alluded to alleged instances of bribery, obviously maligned my reputation, honor and name before the reading public. Initially, I had thought of dismissing all his negative write-ups about me, but after some soul searching, I realized that such a decision would not help us and the judiciary. I must come forward and put things where they have always been, given the gravity of the unsavory lies and the hurt they have caused me and my family and the institution where I proudly belong.

I have nurtured my career from my humble beginnings as a mere clerk until I reached my present position in the judiciary with dedication to duty, hard work and modest living. I have spent all of my professional life in the judiciary for almost 40 years in various capacities.

Throughout these years, I have never been the subject of any administrative or criminal complaint by any party or lawyer. I have never accepted any bribe from anyone. I'd like to believe that, with God's help, I have earned my reputation for integrity. And so, I must admit that I was enraged by what Mr. Tulfo wrote which directly questioned my integrity as a person and as a justice of the Sandiganbayan.

Regardless of what I feel now, this incident has caused me to continue to walk humbly with the Lord. I fully understand that as a journalist, he has a duty to fulfill in our society and country, just like me and everyone else. My quest is always for the furtherance of truth and justice whatever the cost is and whoever might be affected by it. In the process, though, would it not be much more desirable if a fair and just ascertainment of truth be first pursued before precipitately putting on line one's cherished possession of integrity, honor and a good name.

I will continue to do the job I am duty-bound to do. There are so much more weighty and significant things to accomplish still and I assure our countrymen that, with the grace of God, I'm conducting my life worthy of my calling and oath as a justice. When the time comes, it is to Him alone that I shall give a reckoning of my stewardship and before Him, shall I rest my case.—**MINITA V. CHICO-NAZARIO, acting presiding justice, Chairman of the Fifth Division and Special Division, Sandiganbayan, Quezon City**

## Palawan's share in Malampaya revenue

IN RELATION to a news item last Jan. 26 titled "Palawan settles for less on Malampaya share," we wish to clarify that the story is not based on objective facts but mere speculation and interpretation.

Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes, in interviews with the local media, has reiterated that he will not be party to any agreement that will waive Palawan's rightful share of Malampaya revenue.

While it is true that the national government has offered Palawan a financial assistance package that will come from the proposed securitization scheme on future gas revenues, we believe that the national government is giving this to us in good faith and with no strings attached. No document has been signed yet and the provincial officials will make sure that this document will not contain any provision or clause that would jeopardize the province's legal share and claims to the gas revenues.

President Macapagal during her visit to Palawan last year told Palaweños that it is recognizing Palawan's share in the Malampaya gas revenues. Based on DOE revenue schedules from the Malampaya gas project, the national government stands to earn $8.1 billion over the next 20-year period and Palawan is expected to get $2.1 billion as host to the gas field. Former President Fidel V. Ramos in his Administrative Order 381 issued on Feb. 17, 1998, stated in concrete terms Palawan's share in the gas revenues.

However, the Department of Finance in an opinion sent to President Macapagal pointed out that Malampaya is located 80 kms away from Palawan's coastline and far exceeds the 15-km limit for municipal waters.

We are certainly hoping that the national government will be able to resolve this question in due time. However, the people of Palawan will be ready to defend our legal rights, if necessary.—**ROLANDO E. BONOAN JR., provincial information officer, Provincial Government of Palawan, Public Affairs and Information Office, Puerto Princesa City**

## Too far from their work places

I WANT to express my opinion on the relocation of those people living in the Libis area that is affected by the ongoing construction of the C5 extension. The expansion of the road is really needed to help the traffic condition ease up. But as we all know there is a squatter's area hindering the progress of the project and because of this, they are going to be relocated. However, I found out that the reason why people living there do not want to vacate is that the relocation site provided by the government does not have bathrooms. Moreover, the resettlement sites are too far from where the people to be resettled work. I mean how could the government think that the people will accept this? Though the worsening traffic situation in Metro Manila should be addressed, the government should take into consideration the needs of those people who are in the way of the development process. People need roads but people more importantly need shelter and the government should not compromise the basic needs of people for progress. After all, authentic development is human development.—**CARYL G. UY, B11 L2 Kennedy St., Don Antonio Royale Estates, Diliman, Quezon City**

## The redevelopment of Cubao

THERE'S nothing more pleasing at the start of another year than seeing a place that has become dirty and "inhabited" by vendors get a well-deserved makeover.

In the '60s and '70s, Cubao has had a number of firsts. The Araneta Coliseum was the biggest coliseum when it was opened in the '60s and it still is. I remember watching Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier try to bludgeon each other during the Thrilla in Manila on TV.

Then there were Farmers Plaza, which was the country's first air-conditioned shopping mall, and Fiesta Carnival, where everybody used to go before the advent of Megamall, Ayala Center and Robinsons Galleria. It used to be that watching the puppet show at COD during the Christmas season was every kid's dream.

I didn't see the garbage and the vendors then. I don't know how they got into the picture.

If you ask anyone who has not been to Cubao these past years to describe the place, you would probably hear a litany of undesirable adjectives. They would probably say it's a place where you could get mugged anytime. It was usually dark at the Araneta area at night and often beggars would suddenly approach you from behind and tap you on the shoulder to ask for alms. It used to be that not only the *"isaw"* vendors lined the inside streets of the Araneta Center, but rubbish as well.

Last year I happened to attend the annual Christmas tree lighting at the Araneta Center where Mayor "Sonny" Belmonte unveiled the Metro Centro redevelopment program There were big plans for transforming Cubao into a world-class business district.

So seeing Cubao clean and free of illegal vendors again and learning about the Metro Centro program have enkindled in me feelings of nostalgia. Without the garbage and the illegal vendors, I thought I saw a manifestation of Cubao's former self. Lighting has been improved as well.

I guess all it takes is a little cooperation to do the cleanup that would help make the Metro Centro dream come true. This time I saw the local government of Quezon City headed by Belmonte, the MMDA, the Traffic Management Group of the PNP and even the private sector represented by the Araneta Group set an example for what teamwork can do. Let's just hope that this renewed image for Cubao and the big plans for its redevelopment are not merely a new year's resolution meant to be broken.—**SERGIO T. BATO, Grp. 9 Zone 12, Pembo, Makati City**

## Strict implementation of traffic rules

PASAY CITY Mayor Peewee Trinidad says that "the lack of discipline among drivers is really the problem." But his suggestion to give driving permits only to those who really know how to drive and are aware of all traffic regulations will not address the problem. Lack of discipline cannot be solved by education but by stricter enforcement of traffic rules and stiffer penalties for violators. Why do drivers observe traffic rules and behave when they drive inside Subic (or Camp John Hay when it was still under the Americans)? Simple—because they know traffic rules are strictly implemented, and their bribes don't work when they are caught! This is why jeepney drivers are threatening to strike—they don't want to be disciplined. MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos is correct; Mayor Trinidad doesn't get the point!—**ANTONIO L. MAPA, 26 Cagayan de Oro St., Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City**

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# China watchers sift media for clues to reshuffle John Ruwitch

NEWS ANALYSIS

*John Ruwitch*

BEIJING—The little details have always mattered in China's secretive and subtle world of elite politics under the Communist Party.

So China watchers paid close attention when Vice Premier Qian Qichen made a speech on Jan. 24 that marked an important shift in policy toward archrival Taiwan.

And some were intrigued by what they saw.

During state television's prime-time report on the speech, which softened China's stance on Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, the camera lingered far longer on bespectacled Vice President Hu Jintao than on Qian.

That small detail was a big deal, they said, ahead of a party leadership transition due later this year, in which Hu is expected to take over the reins.

"I would have taken his presence there as significant whether the camera was on him or not," said Joseph Fewsmith, professor of international relations at Boston University.

"But the fact that the camera was on him, I think, does underscore that point," he said.

Since the era of Mao Zedong, China watchers have scrutinized the media, poring over official pictures and taking careful note of seemingly mundane details like who attended what meetings, who stood next to whom, who arrived late and who left early.

For lack of more meaty clues in a highly opaque and arcane system, Sinologists have sunk their teeth into these tidbits of information, hoping for insights into which leaders are behind which policies, who is on the way up and who is on the way out.

With a key five-yearly Party congress and expected leadership change only months away, diplomats and analysts are now reading the tea leaves with renewed vigor for clues.

Hu has attracted particular interest.

Number five in the Party's seven-member Politburo Standing Committee, the enigmatic Hu was anointed to succeed Jiang Zemin as party leader—and as president in a government reshuffle due next year—by late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

But very little is known about him. Analysts and diplomats eager to learn more about the man likely to be the next leader of the world's most populous country, were disappointed last year when a two-week trip to Europe answered few questions.

"Even if Hu didn't speak himself about Taiwan, clearly it's a sign that Taiwan affairs may be moving from Jiang to Hu," said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, director of the French Center for Research on Contemporary China in Hong Kong.

Fewsmith said the Taiwan speech coverage could indicate Hu may be taking the first steps to slowly raise his low profile, which has got him labeled a "yes man" but has also kept him on track for the Party's top job.

"He's never been involved in cross-Strait relations. He's never been out in front on a major policy initiative. Maybe this is a suggestion that they're ready to allow him greater access to the world," Fewsmith said.

"If he's going to be general secretary he's got to start setting his own tone," he added.

Analysts noted that a week earlier, Hu met a group of scholars and former US ambassadors visiting for a conference on Sino-US relations. That showed a keen interest in promoting positive ties with the United States, some said.

They also noted the prominent media coverage of Hu's trip to the port city of Tianjin last month, during which he cradled babies and chatted with factory workers and an elderly veteran.

But some analysts said although the Chinese media were a useful tool for analyzing politics, perhaps they were not what they used to be.

"In the past it formed the basis of China-watching, it was some sort of esoteric communication," said Joseph Chan, professor of mass media at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"Some of the symbols have been done away with. It is changing," he said. "In this case, I think it is still valid to make some observations on the basis of big or important occasions such as this one."

But others say it is easy to read too much into it all.

Wu Guoguang, a Hong Kong professor and former editor at the party mouthpiece People's Daily, said it was normal to give Hu significant airtime since he was the most senior leader at the conference.

"I don't see anything unusual," he said. Strict rules bind Chinese media to report on senior leaders in particular ways and list them by rank in reports.

"Every time when a newspaper publishes a piece about a high leader, there are very concrete rules to govern such coverage," he said. "Which guy should be first on the list? Which guy should be second? Who will occupy which position on which page?" he asked, adding that the rules applied to television, too.

One Western diplomat said she would be reluctant to read too much into one event or report.

"I think we've all become super sensitive now," she said.

"Six months ago if this had happened, or last year, your reaction might be 'Oh, only Hu Jintao was there? What does that mean about the Taiwan issue and where it's being played?'" *Reuters*

# *The* WORLD

Luvern B. Gueco, Editor

# US poised to take preemptive strikes

**WASHINGTON/KABUL—The United States has signaled it will take preemptive action in the next phase of its war on terror, ratcheting up the rhetoric that has set off alarm bells in Iraq and Iran.**

In Afghanistan, interim leader Hamid Karzai on Sunday scrambled to put a stop to bloody clashes between tribal rivals that have thrown the authority of his fledgling, UN-backed government into question.

US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, speaking at a security conference in Munich, elaborated on a theme set by President George W. Bush in recent days when he called Iran, Iraq and North Korea the "axis of evil."

"The best defense is a good offence.,. Our approach has to aim at prevention and not merely punishment," said Wolfowitz, a hawk in the Bush administration. "We are at war."

Iraqi newspapers condemned "the dwarf Bush" as savage and aggressive and Iranian parliamentarians called him a threat to world peace and security.

In Afghanistan, where the United States launched its war on terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, Karzai dispatched a team to the eastern town of Gardez to settle a conflict between his nominated governor and tribal rivals after dozens of fighters were killed.

In another eruption of violence as old rivals jockey for position in post-Taliban Afghanistan, about 40 men were killed in clashes in several parts of the northern province of Balkh, political sources in the area said.

The clashes are seen as a setback for Karzai as he attempts to stamp his government's authority on a country long driven by tribal and ethnic hostility and battered by more than two decades of war—including the US-led campaign to crush the Taliban and the al-Qaida members they sheltered.

The fate of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, suspected mastermind behind the September attacks in which some 3,100 people were killed, is a mystery.

But more of his loyalists might soon be taken to a prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where the US military said it had finished construction of a temporary prison and can now more than double its population of Taliban and al-Qaida captives. *Reuters*

# Hoaxes muddy hunt for US reporter

REUTERS/WALL STREET JOURNAL

**PEARL**

ISLAMABAD—Investigators combed Pakistan's southern city of Karachi on Sunday for signs of kidnapped US reporter Daniel Pearl, as a rash of messages, including one saying the reporter had been killed, were dismissed as hoaxes.

Police said they detained a teenage boy who confessed to making a hoax ransom demand, but were still no closer to tracing Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reporter Pearl.

Pearl disappeared in Karachi on Jan. 23 while trying to contact militant Islamic groups believed to be linked to Saudi-born fugitive Osama bin Laden.

"Most of the recent email messages and phone calls have now proved to be hoaxes. We are hopeful that Pearl is alive and that we will trace him," a senior police official in Karachi said.

"We raided a house in Islamabad last night and detained a young boy," he said. "The boy accepted he had made the ransom call to the US Embassy on Friday. He was later released."

The fate of Pearl, 38, was thrown into question on Friday when one message said he had been killed, but another demanded the release of a top Taliban prisoner held captive by the United States and $2 million.

A US official said no conclusion had been reached on the authenticity of the messages, but Pearl's newspaper said it thought both were fake and he was still alive.

"Based on reports from Pakistan we now believe that both of the messages received yesterday about Danny were false. We continue to believe that Danny is alive," WSJ Managing Editor Paul Steiger said in a statement late on Saturday.

"We urge them to release Danny. If that is not possible, we call on them to demonstrate that Danny remains alive. They can do this by providing us with a photo of Danny holding today's newspaper," Steiger said.

A number of emails from people claiming to hold Pearl have threatened to kill the reporter and demanded the release of Pakistani prisoners captured by US forces in the Afghan war.

Some messages from a previously unknown group, the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty, have included photographs of Pearl with a pistol to his head and warned US journalists to leave Pakistan or risk being "targeted."

Washington has ruled out meeting kidnappers' demands.

Pearl, who is based in the Indian city of Bombay, was abducted while working on a story about alleged shoe-bomber Richard Reid, soon to face trial in the United States on charges related to trying to blow up a commercial jet. *Reuters*

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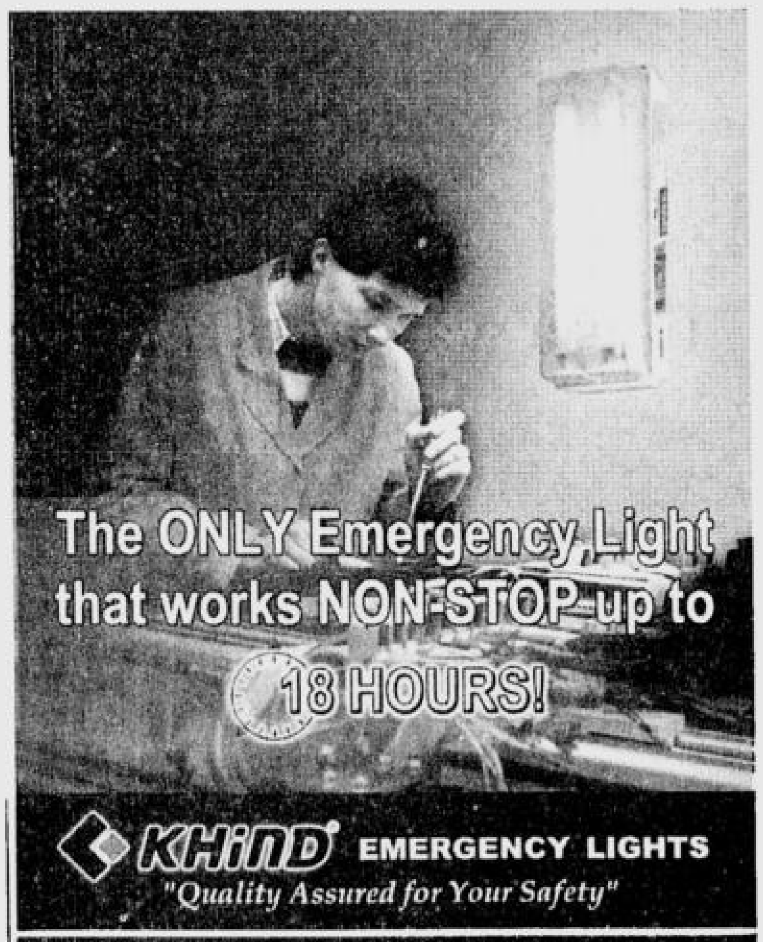
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# Top managers ripped off Enron, report says

WASHINGTON—Enron Corp. inflated its profits by nearly $1 billion and top employees raked in millions of dollars "they should never have received" through complex partnerships key to the company's collapse last year, said an Enron internal inquiry report released on Saturday.

Faulting repeated failures in judgment and oversight by Enron executives, the Powers Report compiled by investigators for a special board committee was instantly criticized by others involved in the ever-widening Enron scandal.

The report's findings were called "extremely self-serving" by Andersen, the Big Five accounting firm that was Enron's auditor for years until the two parted ways following Enron's filing on Dec. 2 of the biggest bankruptcy in US history.

The 218-page report was certain to provide fresh fodder for four days of Enron hearings next week in Congress at which former Enron Chair Kenneth Lay was set to appear on Monday.

The report concluded that partnerships with names such as LJM1, LJM2 and Chewco were used to do deals meant to hide losses, fatten profits and enrich corporate executives at the former energy trading giant that was President George W. Bush's biggest political contributor.

Former Enron Chief Financial Officer Andrew Fastow was singled out for harsh criticism for acting as both Enron CFO and running some of the partnerships. In these dual roles, he made personal gains of at least $30 million, it said.

Enron director William Powers, dean of the University of Texas School of Law, led the team that compiled the report. It blasted former Enron executives for their roles in complex financial partnerships used in deals that hid losses. *Reuters*

"WESTERN UNION CONVERTS NON-BELIEVER".

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Winning in raffle draws and other similar promotions always attracted Filipinos. Virginia Villazor, Western Union's second lucky winner of a house and lot, is not one of them

Last year, Virginia quit her job to take care of her brother's children. Her brother was joining his wife who was already working in California. To compensate for quitting her job, regular dollar remittances through Western Union were sent by Virginia's sister-in-law, including a promise of a possible move to the US this year. Virginia claims they chose Western Union because of its quick service and because one can receive the transfer in the dollars at select agent location in the Philippines.

Virginia entered the Western Union's "Win a Dream Home" Promotion upon the prodding of her brother. "Iniisip ko pa kung ihuhulog ko nga o hindi ang stub ko," she later relates. "Hindi naman kasi ako maswerte sa mga raffle eh."

"May tumawag sa bahay 5:30 ng umaga para sabihin sa nanay ko na nanalo ako ng house and lot," she continues, " Akala ko nanloloko lang pero nung tumawag ulit at ako na mismo nakausap, naglulundag talaga ako sa tuwa!"

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**DUTCH ROYAL WEDDING** AFP

Tearful Argentine Maxima Zorreguieta (left) and Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander smile at each other during their civil marriage Feb. 2 at the Beurs van Berlage in Amsterdam.

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Many dead in Nigeria riots

LAGOS—Many people have been killed in two days of ethnic rioting in Nigeria's biggest city a week after an ammunition dump fire caused 1,000 deaths there, residents of Lagos said on Sunday. Local newspapers reported at least 10 dead in fighting between northern Hausas and ethnic Yorubas of President Olusegun Obasanjo's tribe from the southwest around Lagos. But residents of the volatile Mushin suburb said many more people died. Black smoke billowed into the sky from burning buildings and bursts of gunfire echoed on the tense streets, where youths stood around with machetes and bows and arrows. "Don't go there, there are many bodies in the streets," said one man from the Ibo ethnic group, which has not been directly involved in the fighting, as he fled alongside dozens of others with all he could carry in a bag. *Reuters*

### HK killing 100,000 chickens

HONG KONG—Health officials in Hong Kong have begun a mass slaughter of more than 100,000 chickens in an effort to contain an outbreak of bird flu, a strain of which killed six people in 1997. The alarm was raised after the deaths of 10,000 birds on a farm in the territory, although it is unclear whether they had contracted the H5 strain blamed for the 1997 deaths, a spokesman for the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said. *AFP*

### Koizumi's sagging popularity

TOKYO—Ruling party politicians on Sunday played down a sharp drop in public support for Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who stunned the nation by firing his controversial but popular foreign minister last week. Koizumi, whose popularity is his main weapon against anti-reform forces in his own ruling party, fired Makiko Tanaka last week after her latest dispute with diplomats and a political heavyweight stalled parliament and threatened to delay steps to prop up the flagging economy. Most media surveys showed the sacking of Tanaka had put a dent of around 30 percent in Koizumi's popularity, and analysts say it could threaten his reform agenda and even his job. "Koizumi has lost public confidence considerably. Unless he makes achievements in structural reforms to compensate for the firing of Makiko Tanaka, he won't be able to survive," said Minoru Matsubara, economics professor at Tokyo's Toyo University. *Reuters*

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## Race for post fueled exposé, says judge

**By Vincent Cabreza**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—A plum appointment to the Court of Appeals may have ignited the corruption and immorality charges hurled by a Regional Trial Court judge against four Baguio judges, one of those implicated told the INQUIRER on Friday.

Executive Judge Antonio Reyes and Judges Clarence Villanueva, Edilberto Claravall and Amado Caguioa were cited by Judge Ruben Ayson in a Jan. 25 executive order, which provided insights into alleged adulterous affairs, petty graft and vices that supposedly occur behind court chambers here.

### Calls

The PDI Northern Luzon Bureau received calls from lawyers, police officers and crime victims, who each offered stories that confirmed "the layers of corruption" at the Baguio City Justice Hall, after it ran Ayson's story on Saturday.

But Caguioa told the INQUIRER on Friday that the only common denominator linking Reyes, Villanueva and Ayson was a vacant slot for CA justice, which might have sparked the unusual rivalries.

All three veteran judges are ripe for the post, and have often joked about their perceived rivalry, he said.

Reyes and Villanueva have pending applications for the CA post, Caguioa said. Ayson also referred to a CA application in the controversial order, although the document was not clear about its status.

On occasions, however, Ayson was the target of a pun among judges—"bypass operation victim"--which was apparently coined to make fun of his previously rejected CA applications, Caguioa told the INQUIRER.

"That joke might have hurt him (Ayson), I don't know. I am his *kumpare* and I don't know why he did this, really. I haven't even seen a copy of his order," he said.

Caguioa was the only judge who acceded to an interview.

Reyes was on a working trip to the Supreme Court, while Villanueva had filed a leave of absence.

Claravall, a former city councilor, could not be reached as he was in the middle of a convention at the Baguio Country Club.

Ayson also declined to comment, stressing that the order "spoke for itself." But he also asked the INQUIRER to defer publication of the story and wait for a new development tomorrow.

Caguioa said he has already discussed Ayson's order with Reyes, after rumors about Ayson's directive circulated last week.

### Worries

"(Reyes) just laughed if off. The rest (of the accused) said we should wait. None of the charges (Ayson) put forth is solid, and most can be answered pointblank, so we are not really worried. We are more worried for him (Ayson). He will have to face the repercussions (of his actions)," Caguioa said in Filipino.

"An RTC order is a public document, but it is (not like) a privileged speech in Congress. He can be sued. He mentioned people in that order and they are contemplating a suit. I think he knows that already," Caguioa added.

The Jan. 25 order was Ayson's reiteration of a previous motion to inhibit himself from a property case that involved Baguio Mayor Bernardo Vergara.

The first inhibition order, filed on Jan. 21, was rejected by Reyes.

"I am reiterating my inhibiting myself from hearing the case out of *delicadeza* since defendant Mayor Bernardo Vergara is one of those who recommended me for the position of justice of the Court of Appeals," Ayson wrote in the Jan. 25 order.

### Demolition order

Civil Case No. 5140-R arose from a dispute over a demolition order more than a year ago, said lawyer Robert Fangayen, city legal counsel.

The suit—filed by Espirita and Santiago Malecdan against Vergara, his staff and a land claimant named Mabel Joan Tadaoan—seeks a resolution to a proprietary conflict over a 1,000-sq. m. lot, he explained.

The Malecdan couple had been contesting a demolition order issued by the city government on behalf of Tadaoan, and was securing a restraining order when the case was raffled off to Ayson, Fangayen said.

"Under the Local Government Code, it is the duty of the city mayor to order the demolition of illegal structures... and so the demolition order comes from the mayor so it is his action that is sought to be enjoined. Mayor Vergara is not just a nominal party but a real party defendant in the case at bar," Ayson argued in the order.

But the order suddenly shifted track, and began to question Reyes' decision to reject the first order. It then proceeded to list down alleged episodes of impropriety involving Reyes, Caguioa, Villanueva, Claravall and other unnamed judges.

"Many of the instances he (Ayson) referred to happened three years ago and had been settled. One instance (about an adulterous affair) had the wrong information. He cited the name of the wrong party, and that party is suing, I am told," Caguioa said.

Ayson also referred to the anomalous collection of "commissioner's fees" for clerks and stenographers, who process *ex-parte* cases like birth name changes. Ayson cited the name of a witness who could prove the anomaly.

Caguioa said the practice stopped as soon as the Supreme Court issued its memorandum, "although the practice was around because the work occurred after office hours."

### Deeper probe

"I am not really aware of any new fees being collected. (His order) referred to one old incident, and I was told it involved a client who volunteered the money. But the client complained to Ayson and the money was returned when it was raised," Caguioa said.

The police here want a deeper investigation into Ayson's revelations.

"If the judges have crossed the line, maybe that can explain the number of illegal narcotics cases we seem to be losing all the time in court. The Supreme Court should check Baguio," a police official told the INQUIRER.

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## *Desierto backs libel charge vs Romualdez*

**By Joey A. Gabieta**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

TACLOBAN CITY—Ombudsman Aniano Desierto has recommended the filing of libel charges against City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez before the Sandiganbayan.

This after he found "probable cause" for libel against the mayor, based on a complaint filed before the Ombudsman by Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo.

Domingo lodged the complaint against Romualdez late last year after the mayor, in a radio interview on Aug. 30, called Domingo "a problem person," "a liar," "drug addict," "silly, crazy, no good person," "a disgrace of the RDC (Regional Development Council)," and "an ingrate."

Desierto said Romualdez had not rebutted the presumption that his utterances made over the radio were malicious as he has not submitted his counter-affidavit or other countervailing evidence.

He said Romualdez's public utterances ascribing vices or defects on Domingo, "tend to cause (Domingo's) dishonor, discredit or contempt."

"Surely, no conclusion can be reached other than that probable cause for libel exists against respondent," Desierto said.

Romualdez has not been available for comment. His aides said the mayor was in Manila attending to some official business.

The ruling of the Office of the Ombudsman was issued on Dec. 12 but was released only on Jan. 30.

When he uttered the alleged derogatory remarks against Domingo, Romualdez was answering a question asked by radio reporter Alice Jabines of Bombo-Radyo on the reported plan of Domingo to oust him as chair of the RDC in Eastern Visayas. Domingo was the vice chair of RDC-8.

Romualdez earlier moved for the dismissal of the case, arguing that the Office of the Ombudsman has no jurisdiction to hear and decide the case because the offense was not committed in relation to his being a city mayor.

But Desierto, in his two-page decision, ruled that Romualdez uttered the "defamatory statements in his capacity as city mayor and RDC-8 chairman."

"This would dispel any doubt that the statements were issued while in the performance of his official functions. Clearly, (the) perceived libelous utterances committed by a city mayor... is clearly encompassed by the Ombudsman's criminal investigatory authority and prosecutorial prerogatives," the ruling said.

Domingo, through his counsels Aurel Menzon and Jose Llames, filed the libel complaint against Romualdez before the Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas last October.

The Ombudsman-Visayas ruled in favor of Domingo and forwarded its recommendation to the Office of the Ombudsman on Nov. 29.

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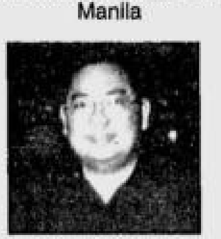
Makati Science High School
Makati City


**Lakangiting C. Garcia, Ph. D.**
De La Salle University
Manila

**Lakandupil C. Garcia, Ph.D.**
De La Salle University
Dasmarinas, Cavite

**Jonas V. Palada, Ph.D.**
Eastern Samar State College
Samar

**Ang Gawad Guro 2002 ay isang proyekto ng Kabayan sa pakikipagtulungan ng**

◇ Sanggunian ng Filipino
◇ Department of Education
◇ Commission on Higher Education
◇ Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines
◇ Philippine Association of State Colleges and Universities
◇ Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino

**2000 Galing Pook Awardee**

# City of San Fernando Celebrates 1st Anniversary

## "Panibagong Sigla sa Bagong Siglo"

## Messages

Warmest felicitations to the officials and residents of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga on its First Anniversary Celebration.

This period of festivities comes at an opportune time as it coincides with our government's call for unity and solidarity amidst local and international challenges. It is a perfect venue to rally your entire community to proceed with determination and renewed enthusiasm in the united pursuit of our lofty societal goals.

Your unwavering commitment to the development of the City of San Fernando is good example of the unity and leadership we need in forging our social and economic transformation. Your concerted action to implement reforms in local governance as exemplified by your commitment to ensure the success of this undertaking is heartening. May you find inspiration in your achievements as you take the necessary steps to cope with the demands of the times.

May your celebration this year serve to strengthen your faith in God, and your relationship with one another and with the rest of the national community.

Mabuhay!

**(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
President
Republic of the Philippines

---

My warmest greetings to the people of the City of San Fernando (Pampanga) on the celebration of the 1st Founding Anniversary of their beloved City.

The City of San Fernando has been on the forefront of the country's socio-economic pursuits being a premier locality in Central Luzon and a trailblazer in agri-industrial programs. With people and leaders who are unwavering in their faith and commitment to the common good, amidst the challenges and difficulties brought about by natural and man-made calamities, the City of San Fernando can look forward to a future abundant in opportunities for growth and progress.

I join our countrymen in fervently wishing the City of San Fernando continued success in all its efforts to uplift the social, economic, political and moral conditions of its people, and of the country in general.

Have a joyful and meaningful celebration.

Mabuhay

**(Sgd.) Franklin Drilon**
Senate President

---

I join in this celebration of thanksgiving and joy on the First Anniversary of the creation of San Fernando as the Capital City of Pampanga.

Our celebration is truly meaningful when we build our lives and public service on solid Christian and human values, like the house builder in the Gospel of Matthew 7:24-26: we must build on the rock of moral, social, cultural and religious principles.

The city community of San Fernando will overcome the problems of poverty, malnutrition and unpeace if we all unite and work for the genuine good of every man, of the whole man and the community.

I congratulate the leadership of the City our beloved Mayor Reynaldo Aquino, M.D. and Vice Mayor Eligio 'Tiger' Lagman in teaming together for the progress and prosperity of San Fernando.

Excelsior towards Peace and development,

**(Sgd.) PACIANO B. ANICETO, D.D.**
Archbishop of San Fernando

---

I join the people of San Fernando in the observance of the 1st Anniversary of the city's historic day on February 4.

With its new status, this regional capital is now on its way to speedy development propelled by new visions that will take it to great heights, new achievements, and prosperity.

Fernandinos, I am certain, may now rejoice over the opportunities and challenges of growth, while sharing the burdens of sustaining this momentum for a better life of all.

The residents may not as yet enjoy the immediate and tangible blessings of their citihood status, but their children and the coming generation will find San Fernando a premier city marked by progress, ennobled by great achievers and united in love, peace and harmony of its citizenry. In my stint as Chief Executive of the province, I hope I have contributed my modest bit in shaping the city to its future destiny.

Luid ya ing San Fernando! Luid ya ing Kapampangan!

**(Sgd.) MANUEL M. LAPID**
Governor

---

I join our cabalens and the good people of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga in celebration of their First Cityhood Anniversary.

This celebration with the theme, "Panibagong Sigla sa Bagong Siglo", is an opportune time to highlight the rich culture and heritage and the historic transformation of San Fernando as one of the more progressive urban centers in Central Luzon.

I hope we will make this celebration more relevant by refraining from useless spending and wasteful extravaganza while focusing your resources and energies on the further development of your locality. Our tasks at hand are enormous. We still face daunting challenges to realize our aspiration of growth and progress for Pampanga. With diligence, industry and solid kinship alongside an effective and responsive local government unit, I am sure the City of San Fernando will become more progressive in the years to come.

With these thoughts, I look forward to your positive contributions in our efforts to steer the Province of Pampanga towards greater peace and progress.

Masaplalang pamamiyesta quecongan caluguran cung cabalen!

MABUHAY!

**(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. ARROYO**
Vice-Governor

---

At the time when you and I helped create the City of San Fernando, the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was barely a month old. It was a time when our citizenry was yet to witness a series of tragic attempts to keep our country weak and disunited. I sincerely hope that all these efforts to further polarize our people are behind us. There is much work ahead and we will never succeed if we do not unite and give the existing government an opportunity to succeed.

In commemorating the day when the Municipality of San Fernando finally became a City, may the Fernandinos set the example of how to unite and create a new beginning. Among my many fervent wishes is that Mayor Rey B. Aquino and our esteemed colleagues in the city government be abundantly blessed with the energy and sense of focus to keep our brand new city a haven of peace and progress.

May all our efforts to create a greater and more prosperous city meet every possible success.

Mabuhay ang City of San Fernando! Mabuhay ang Republika ng Pilipinas!

**(Sgd.) OSCAR S. RODRIGUEZ**
Representative
3rd District Pampanga

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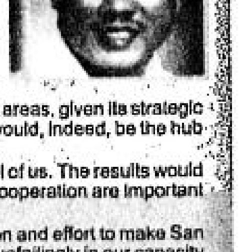


As we mark the first anniversary of the City of San Fernando, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to fellow Fernandinos for yet another historic milestone in the life of our beloved community.

Cityhood means so much for San Fernando. It symbolizes the unity and determination of our people to rise from adversities and move forward. It also brings into reality the unwavering vision of our people to create a unique stature for San Fernando as modern, progressive community.

Cityhood has put San Fernando on a higher ground as it looks ahead. The future seems as promising as ever, perhaps even more so even in these difficult times. We are now looking forward not only with greater confidence and bigger hopes but real gains to promote our community and people.

On this first anniversary, the prospects are that San Fernando will set the pace in economic growth in the province and region. It may well be that it will provide the stimulus for growth in those areas, given its strategic value. Looking back, all these seem to fit perfectly into a previous prognosis that San Fernando would, indeed, be the hub of economic boom in this part of the country.

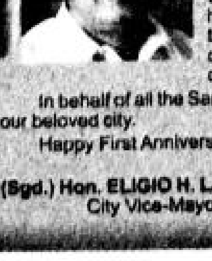
How to make the best out of these prospects and opportunities is a continuing challenge to all of us. The results would only be as good as our commitment to our shared goals as community. Then as now, unity and cooperation are important keys to what we can further accomplish for the good of San Fernando.

On this first commemoration, let us be thankful and let us appreciate each other's contribution and effort to make San Fernando ever a better place to live in. Let us continue to work hard in this direction and believe unfailingly in our capacity to excel to build the city of our dream.

Luguran taya pu ing Siyudad ning San Fernando!

**(Sgd.) DR. REY B. AQUINO**
City Mayor

---



Barely a year ago, we, in the local governance of San Fernando, Pampanga were so busy for the envisioned conversion of the former municipality into a newly component city. However, the nerve-wrecking preparations for the plebiscite on February 3, 2001 are nevertheless now part of the historical and overwhelming ratification by the Fernandinos of the cityhood status of their beloved San Fernando.

On our first year anniversary as a component city, we take pride, as your duly elected city officials that we took the cudgels in enacting the landmark legislation that gave birth to what the City of San Fernando is today. As your first city officials in the legislative branch who work hand in hand with the Chief Executive, we assure you that we shall continue to enact legislative measures that would address the needs of the City. Evidently, this is our sincere manifestation of our commitment to work hard to be able to promote and perpetually preserve the historical conversion of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

In behalf of all the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, thank you for all your support to our beloved city.

Happy First Anniversary, City of San Fernando!

**(Sgd.) Hon. ELIGIO H. LAGMAN**
City Vice-Mayor

---

San Fernando City Hall

Aerial photo of the city.

### • CHRISTMAS CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES •

THE City of San Fernando has earned the moniker Christmas Capital of the Philippines because of two reasons: It is home to the world-famous giant lanterns and it is the site of Paskuhan Village, the first of its kind in Asia and the third in the world.

Located 67 kilometers north of Manila, San Fernando, the 99th city in the country, the 10th in Central Luzon and the 2nd in the province, is composed of 34 barangays with a land area of 6,774 hectares. It is the capital of Pampanga and is the regional center of Central Luzon where almost all of the regional offices of the government could be found.

### • BRIEF HISTORY •

According to old folk's stories, the origin of San Fernando was the small community of Sto. Rosario I which was then part of the towns of Mexico and Bacolor until it was founded by the Spaniards and made a separate town in 1755. The place was named after King Ferdinand of Spain, whose conquest of the Moors and acts of kindness made him a saint.

Since the year it was founded, its administrator was called a gobernadorcillo, the first of whom was Mr. Vital de Arrozal. Subsequently, 136 other town personalities occupied the position until 1897. The town did not gain prominence during the Spanish regime because the provincial capital then was Bacolor. However, the coming of the Americans at the turn of the century marked the start of the ascendancy of San Fernando toward progress and national fame.

San Fernando was the commercial and industrial center of Pampanga when the Pacific War broke out on December 8, 1942. The entry of the Japanese forces into the town was accompanied by a great fire that left nothing standing in the town plaza except charred remains and smoking embers.

Then VP Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hands over 2000 Galing-Pook Plaque to Mayor Aquino in Malacañang.

The Japanese placed the municipal government under their supervision and made life difficult for everyone. It was then that the now famous Hukbalahap movement was born, as the people's show of bravery against the Japanese.

On January 29, 1945, the liberation force under Gen. Douglas MacArthur entered San Fernando and a civil government was established with the late Vivencio Cuyugan as municipal mayor. Cuyugan recruited policemen who were members of the Hukbalahap and from then on, peace reigned in the municipality.

### • POPULATION •

As of year 2000, San Fernando had a total population of 221,857 with 43,649 households. Literacy rate is one of the highest in the country, 98.79% while the labor force is 119,818. The city takes pride in its long list of technical and professional sons and daughters who provide a wide range of choices for employment by local and foreign industrial and commercial establishments.

### • COMMERCE AND TRADE •

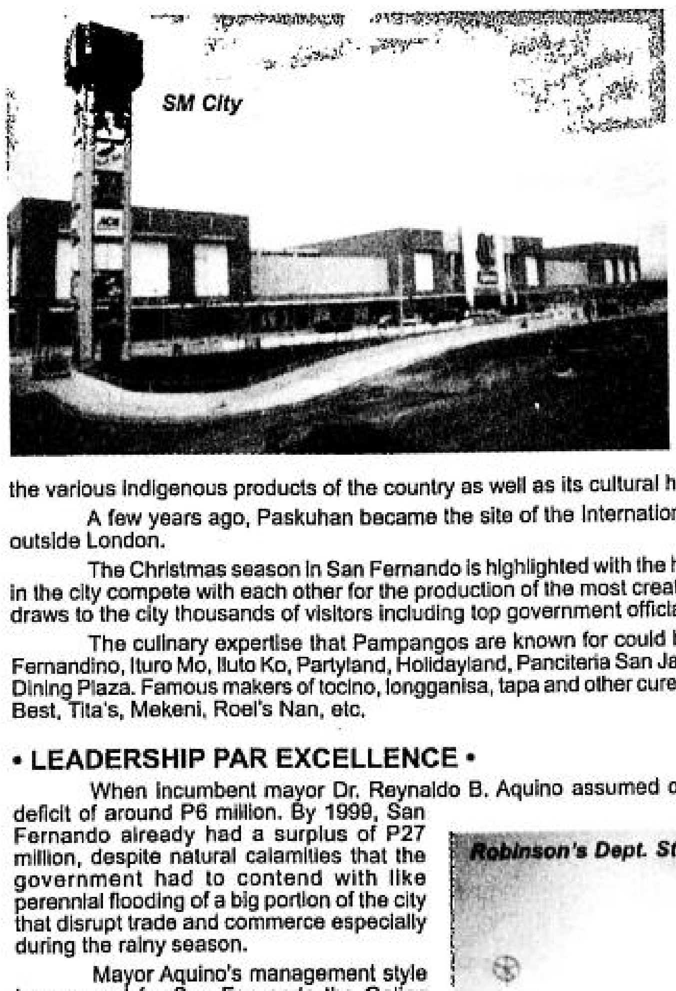
At present, operating in the city are two giant malls: Shoemart and Robinson's which have provided additional employment and revenues for San Fernando. It has also two public markets with around 5,000 commercial and industrial establishments that include 52 banks, 56 lending investors, 54 pawnshops, 19 gasoline stations, nine movie houses, 39 public and private schools, seven hospitals, 24 dental clinics, 10 hotels, 35 drugstores, seven disco clubs, 10 foreign exchange outlets, 15 garment factories, 24 groceries, seven supermarkets, 42 insurance companies, 16 security agencies, 197 restaurants and fast-food chains such as Jollibee, Mcdonald's Mr. Donuts, Greenwich, Shakey's Chowking, KFC, Goto King, Pizza Hut, Cindy's, Tropical Hut, Tokyo, Tokyo, Max, etc.

Four giant bottling companies also operate in San Fernando, namely: San Miguel Corporation, Pepsi-Cola, Cola-Cola and Cosmos. The big corporations include CIGI, Alencor, Pasudeco, Universal Robina, Zuellig Pharma, Carworld, General Motors, Honda, Nissan, Hyundai, Nestle, Petrophil, Capitol Allied Trading, Mondragon Industries, Philacor, Sanyo Marketing, Asia Brewery, Del Monte, Sharp, Marsman and Caltex.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Issues City Charter to Mayor Aquino in San Fernando, Pampanga.

### • TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD NETWORK •

San Fernando is strategically located so that travelers and commuters coming from and going to Clark Field in Angeles City; Subic Bay in Olongapo; Metro Manila and Baguio City have to pass through it. Road network consists of 34 kms. of national roads, 9.3 kms. provincial, 17.4 kms. municipal and 138 kms. of barangay roads cemented and accessible to all means of land transportation. Traversing through the town are the MacArthur Highway, a national road, and the North Expressway. Public utility buses, mini buses, FX taxis, jeepneys and cars ply the area. Also available at designated routes are motorized tricycles, pedaled tri-wheelers and horse-driven carts.



SM City

### • TOURISM AND FINE CUISINE •

On Good Fridays, the quiet village of San Pablo Cutcut turns into a tourist haven due to a bizarre ritual of the actual nailing on the cross by some local penitents. This attraction has become part of the San Fernando's Holy Week tradition despite the disapproval expressed by Catholic church officials.

The Archdiocesan museum and archives is housed at the Guerrero building of the University of the Assumption. It contains antique and exquisite works of art depicting the cultural heritage, artistic skills and Roman Catholic inspirations of the Kapampangans.

The mood and spirit of the Christmas season could be felt and seen all year round at the Paskuhan Village, located on a five-hectare land near the San Fernando Exit of the North Expressway. It showcases the various indigenous products of the country as well as its cultural heritage.

A few years ago, Paskuhan became the site of the International Garden Festival or Florikultura, the first to be held outside London.

The Christmas season in San Fernando is highlighted with the holding of a lantern festival wherein different barangays in the city compete with each other for the production of the most creative and artistic version of the giant lantern. This event draws to the city thousands of visitors including top government officials and foreign dignitaries.

The culinary expertise that Pampangos are known for could be sampled at dining places in the city like Kamayan, Fernandino, Ituro Mo, Iluto Ko, Partyland, Holidayland, Panciteria San Jacinto, Fisherman's Grill, Cafe Rustico and Celebration's Dining Plaza. Famous makers of tocino, longganisa, tapa and other cured meats also abound in San Fernando like Pampanga's Best, Tita's, Mekeni, Roel's Nan, etc.

### • LEADERSHIP PAR EXCELLENCE •

When incumbent mayor Dr. Reynaldo B. Aquino assumed office in 1995, the municipal government had a fiscal deficit of around P6 million. By 1999, San Fernando already had a surplus of P27 million, despite natural calamities that the government had to contend with like perennial flooding of a big portion of the city that disrupt trade and commerce especially during the rainy season.

Mayor Aquino's management style has earned for San Fernando the Galing Pook Award for "breaking financial barriers", a distinction bestowed by the government to outstanding local government units. The city received a plaque for the award together with P100,000 cash prize which was used by city officials for its computerization program.

There is no denying the fact that San Fernando today has already reached an unprecedented height in progress and development, and greater prosperity is expected especially now that it has survived the birth pains of cityhood.

Robinson's Dept. Store

# 4 bishops oppose plan to recruit RPA as Cafgu

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—The Catholic bishops in the four dioceses of Negros Island are calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo not to allow members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army (RPA) to be turned into paramilitary men.

The bishops, in a collective statement released yesterday addressed to the President, said they view with "deep alarm" the recent statement of Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita that the armed elements of the RPA could be formed into Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus).

Ermita, who heads the Macapagal administration's panel negotiating for peace with the RPA, said that by recruiting the RPA-Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) members as Cafgus, they could retain their firearms as provided in their peace agreement with the government.

"Recent experience as well as lessons of the past have taught us real peace is never attained through the barrel of the gun," said the statement signed by Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra, Dumaguete Bishop John Du, San Carlos Bishop Jose Advincula and Msgr. Rogelio Cruz, administrator of the Diocese of Kabankalan "Dislocated and ill-prepared paramilitary personnel can turn into bandits, guns-for-hire or become belligerent and demanding but non-productive citizens," the statement said.

### No change

The prelates said they believed that ideological beliefs would not change with a change in uniform. They cited the case of former members of the Moro National Liberation Front loyal to deposed Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Nur Misuari who were integrated into the Philippine National Police but who turned against the government forces they were supposed to assist.

"The integration of the (MNLF) rebels into the Armed Forces of the Philippines (and) PNP has proven to be risky and dangerous. Will it not be more dangerous to allow ex-rebels to hold on to their firearms by forming paramilitary units? How are unarmed and helpless civilians supposed to feel under these circumstances?" the prelates asked.

"Habits die hard, the quickest way for ex-fighters to settle an argument is with the gun," they warned.

The Church leaders said present conditions in the country provide ample proof that the old approaches toward achieving peace must change.

"Insurgency is not a cancer that can be removed surgically through military counter-operations," they said. "The root causes that contribute to unrest can only be removed by responsive and genuine development of the people."

The prelates believed that peace agreement reached between the government and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa, the political arm of the RPA-ABB, was defective as it was hastily signed on Dec. 6, 2000 by the then troubled President Joseph Estrada, who a month later was forced to step down from power following the People Power II uprising.

### No consultation

The bishops noted that the peace agreement was signed without consulting the various concerned sectors in Negros Island, particularly the communities where the RPA operates.

Because of this, the prelates said they are asking the President to have the peace agreement reviewed "with more than usual care and subject to an exhaustive consultation process involving the four dioceses of Negros Occidental, sectoral groups and active member of civil society."

"The peace agreement drafted during the Estrada administration cannot provide the climate necessary to achieve peace," the prelates said.

Also, they noted that are strong suspicions "founded on actual experience" that the agreement was designed to be a counter-insurgency tool as well as a vehicle for promoting vested political and business interests, primarily to those associated with businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., an ally of Estrada who has vast business and political interests in Negros Occidental.

"Those interests do not champion redistributive justice nor empowerment of the masses but are instead known for insatiable land acquisition and contractualization of farm workers and strong-arm control of votes, which are conditions hardly conducive for peace," the prelates said.

They also asked the President to take note that the people of Negros Island Negros who took part in the island-wide consultations that culminated with the Negros Peace Congress in December, have recommended that the government correct the agreement's perceived defects and weaknesses through a supplemental agreement.

Bishop Navarra has earlier enlisted the help of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in addressing their concern over the re-arming of RPA-ABB members as government paramilitary troops.

"I truly cannot hope for peace when I see a government that speaks one thing and means another," Navarra had said.

"It is a government that pursues peace negotiations even as it oils its war machinery and espouses security through civilian use of firearms," Navarra lamented.

# 2 men with fake bonds worth $123B arrested

DAVAO CITY—Agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) here arrested Thursday two men for possessing fake $123-billion (more than P6 trillion) in bonds.

The CIDG filed charges against Absalon Ramirez Jr. of Cagayan de Oro City and Lakandupil Ramos of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, for violation of Art. 168 of the Revised Penal Code (illegal possession and use of false treasury notes).

Operatives from the CIDG arrested both Ramirez and Ramos outside the Bagobo Hotel along Gov. Duterte Street here.

The bust came after a civilian agent informed the CIDG that an illegal drug shipment was being moved from Cagayan de Oro City to Davao City through the Davao-Bukidnon Highway.

Two CIDG teams led by Senior Inspectors Johnson Almazan and Joel Consulta were then formed to intercept the vehicle.

Police later found the vehicle, a Mazda van bearing the plate GFU-609, at the Bagobo Hotel parking space with the two suspects still on board.

When searched, the vehicle yielded no drugs but a black box containing the fake multibillion US Federal Reserve notes.

The police officers seized 246 fake bonds with a face value of $500 million each or a total of $123 billion.

The buyer of the alleged fake bonds was inside the hotel but the suspects refused to name the person, the CIDG learned during the interrogation on the suspects. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

**EYESORE.** The Davao city government recently launched a drive against the stock piling of junk metals along major roads here, such as shown in this photo taken along R. Castillo Street in Agdao District. The drive was part of efforts to clear Davao City of eyesores.

RYAN B. LIM/ PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

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NAI Security and Data Protection - A School's Priority
Macromedia A New Way for Dynamic Teaching
day 2 february 22, friday
Autodesk Mechanical Manufacturing and Design Solutions for the Engineers of the Future
Architectural Building Design Solutions for the Future Architects
GIS Precision Mapping and Powerful GIS Analysis for the Academe
Discreet Empowering Education; Tools that Liberate Talent --Discreetly

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# NPA denies role in ambush of 2 foreigners

TARLAC CITY—A New People's Army in Pampanga denied involvement in the Wednesday ambush of two foreign tourists in Porac, Pampanga.

German Sigfried Wittman was rescued on Thursday while the body of his American friend, Brian Thomas Smith, was found in Sapang Uwak, a remote and abandoned Aeta village in Porac.

"There is no political basis, much less political gain, in attacking two innocent civilians trekking the mountains of Porac," the NPA's Palermo Ortañez Command said in a statement delivered to the INQUIRER on Saturday.

It carried the NPA logo of an Armalite rifle and an arrow inside a triangle and was signed by Armando Ortiliano, spokesperson of the NPA's Pampanga command.

Salud Rojas of the NPA Central Luzon's Josepino Corpuz Command authenticated the letter.

"As the NPA stands by its principle and policy to defend the country and the people from foreign intervention and aggression, we make it clear that punitive actions undertaken by NPA units are directed only against foreign military aggressors," it said.

The statement said responsibility for the ambush slaying was "readily and quickly pointed" to the NPA because the "authorities would use this as a pretext to stifle legitimate struggle" against the joint military exercises of Filipino and American soldiers.

The military exercises, dubbed Balikatan 02-1, are part of the US' expanded war against terrorism, the NPA said.

"Toeing the US line of fighting global terrorism, the puppet GMA regime is bent on crushing democratic revolution, the people's movement for genuine independence from imperialist domination," the statement said. ***Ronald Dizon and Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | HI30° Lo 18° |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 21° Lo 13° |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 20° |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 32° Lo 20° |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 31° Lo 19° |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Hi 29° Lo 17° |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Hi 30° Lo 20° |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Hi 30° Lo 20° |
| Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy | Hi 30° Lo 22° |
| Roxas | Partly Cloudy | Hi 30° Lo 24° |
| Cebu | Partly Cloudy | Hi 31° Lo 22° |
| Tacloban | Partly Cloudy | Hi 31° Lo 23° |
| Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy | Hi 34° Lo 24° |
| Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy | Hi 33° Lo 22° |
| Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy | Hi 31° Lo 20° |
| Davao | Partly Cloudy | Hi 31° Lo 24° |

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/04/02

## ROUNDUP

### 3 illegal vendors nabbed

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Police on Thursday arrested three men and seized from them 187 liquefied petroleum gas tanks that were being sold illegally in La Union. Police said the suspects—Jose Estillore, Ricardo Salvador and Conrado Chan—were accused of infringing on a popular LPG trademark. Also seized from the suspects were 105 pieces of fake seals and an improvised sealer used by them in duplicating Petron Gasul logo and sealers.

*Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### DA braces for El Niño

NAGA CITY—The Department of Agriculture here is ready to activate a response plan designed to lessen the effects of the projected dry spell on Bicol farmers. DA regional executive director Fe D. Laysa said the DA's response plan includes the distribution of early maturing rice variety and vegetable seeds. The DA is also ready to train farmers on how to preserve moisture in their farms and how to make preserved grass that can be fed to animals during the El Niño.

*Juan Escandor Jr., Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Anti-drug campaign hit

NAGA CITY—The Commission on Human Rights claimed that the anti-drug campaign here, a brainchild of Naga Mayor Jesse Robredo, violates the rights to due process, against degrading treatment and mental torture, to presumption of innocence and against unlawful attacks on one's honor and reputation. CHR Naga chief Teodoro Dimayacyac said the anti-drug campaign dubbed "Stickering" could cause irreparable damage to the integrity of the individual. But Robredo defended the reverse version of the spray-paint campaign against drug pushers in Manila, saying he believed that they have enough legal basis and that the people here supports it.

*Juan Escandor Jr., Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Dead man found

SAN JOSE, Batangas—Residents of Mango Orchard at Barangay Aguila here have found a dead body of a man with bullet wounds on his head, police reported. The body was medium-built, 5'4" in height, about 30 years old, with tattoo marks "Fox" and "Dely" on the left shoulder, and wearing white *sando, maong* short pants and slippers. Sources at the San Jose police station said the corpse might have just been dumped in the town. The victim's body was taken to the Funeraria Jun in the town's poblacion.

*Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Drug pusher nabbed

AGONCILLO, Batangas—Police have arrested a suspected drug pusher in town and recovered P10,620 worth of shabu from him in Barangay Sta. Cruz, this town. Norberto de Leon, 37, a resident of Barangay Subic Ilaya, also in this town, was nabbed by local police who said he was included in their watchlist. They found in his possession two heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing shabu weighing 5.9 grams.

*Mei Magsino, PDI Suthern Luzon Bureau*

# War games hound new Charter change effort

**By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BAGUIO CITY—The presence of American troops in Mindanao also hounded Congress, which again sought fresh mandate to amend the 1987 Constitution through a public consultation here on Friday.

The consultation, attended by 500 people from northwestern Luzon, was launched on the eve of Constitution Day, a special nonworking holiday.

Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, cited the irony of scheduling the hearing close to the 15th anniversary celebration of the 1987 Constitution but said it was "appropriate."

Nachura said the document exploited the hostilities against the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and had already lost its meaning as a "reactionary Charter" after a decade without Marcos.

But militant groups here objected to new charter changes by citing the unstable political climate generated by the polarization over the Balikatan 02-1 war exercises.

"As we speak, the national debate over and critical stance (towards) the US military intervention in our internal affairs are gaining momentum on the ground despite Malacañang's claims of public approval," said Voltaire Tupaz, secretary general of the militant Tongtongan ti Umili.

"The appetite of (President Macapagal-Arroyo) to sell our country, to bow to military dictates, and to surrender our sovereignty to US and other vested foreign interests (sends) a bad signal to any effort to amend or change the highest law of the land, imperfect or flawed as it may be," he said, quoting a position paper issued by the Cordillera People's Alliance (CPA).

House committee members said they were not about to tinker with the 1987 Constitution to accommodate the ongoing war exercises between the Philippines and the US.

"Those are two different carabaos. The Balikatan has nothing to do with the consultation on constitutional amendments," said Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, committee vice chair.

Domogan was joined here by Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Roseller Barinaga, Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Isidro Real; Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez; Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina, Nueva Ecija Rep. Aurelio Umali and Laguna Rep. Joaquin Chipeco Jr.

"I don't believe the people would want to touch the existing provisions on military treatise and establishment of military bases," Nachura said.

Former Peace Commissioner Zenaida Hamada-Pawid and Baguio Councilor Braulio Yaranon also objected to Charter changes, pointing out that Congress had failed to maximize the "progressive elements" of the 1987 Constitution.

Most of the participants, however, endorsed changes that would allow a shift to a federal form of government.

"We anticipate a higher degree of public vigilance with the resurrection of these issues. We have a relatively politicized public as a result of the trajectory of recent political and economic events. We have just ousted a regime and fought for good governance, justice and meaningful change. That fight and the growing dissatisfaction of the people continue," the CPA said.

Part of that dissatisfaction is in the government's inability to "tell the whole truth" with regard to the Abu Sayyaf problems, the Council of Bishops of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines concluded in a Wednesday press conference here.

Bishop Osias Jaim of the Northwest Mindanao Jurisdiction said a UCCP fact-finding mission already "confirmed" a report by Catholic priest, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, which links the Army top brass to the bandit group.

# Benguet death toll now 16; bad road caused the mishap

**By Toots Soberano**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BOKOD, Benguet—It was the province's bad roads that caused a bus bound for Kabayan town to plunge into a ravine on Saturday, police said.

The death toll in the accident rose to 16 on Sunday after the reported death of passengers Melecio Diaus and Dolly Ann Ganado, 10 months old.

Police said the Kabayan-bound Norton Bus was negotiating an eroded and narrow dirt road in Barangay Poblacion here when it hit a mountainside and fell into the 120-foot deep ravine. The accident site is 53 km from Baguio.

The bus left Baguio City at 9 a.m. Saturday carrying at least 36 passengers, police said.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER said a 20-meter stretch of the road in the area where the accident occurred was washed out when typhoon "Feria" hit the Cordillera last July.

The eroded road stretch has never been repaired since then, residents and policemen here said.

Police officials here said the driver, Larion Bacod, could have miscalculated the road width, causing the bus to hit the mountainside. Bacod was among those killed in the accident.

Albino Kindaw, a barangay *kagawad* in poblacion whose house is near the road, said he heard a loud thud and pleas for help before the bus fell at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Kindaw said he went out of his house and gathered his neighbors to rescue the passengers. He said they saw some of the injured victims getting out of the bus that fell on the riverbed below the road.

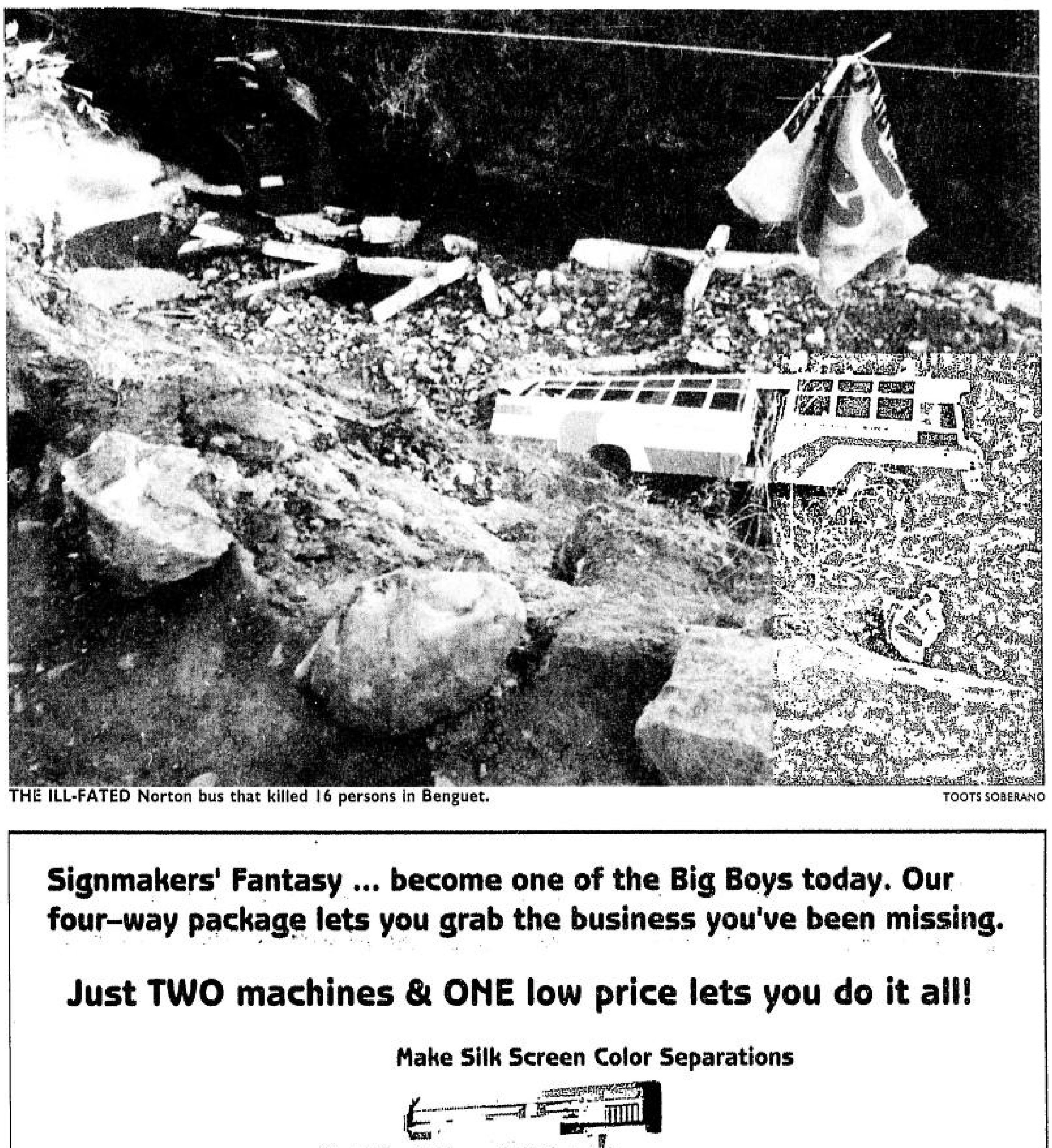
A group of mountain climbers bound for Mt. Pulag helped retrieve the bodies from the accident site, he said.

The group's vehicle was tailing the bus and stopped when the group saw the bus fall off the ravine, he said.

Retrieval operations were completed at about 9 p.m. Saturday. Those injured were taken to the Benguet General Hospital in La Trinidad town, to the Dennis Molintas Memorial Hospital here and the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

The Saturday accident was the second major highway accident in the Cordillera's mountain roads this year.

On Jan. 22, six people were killed and several others were hurt when their jeepney fell into a 200-meter ravine and rolled into a river in Tabuk, Kalinga.



THE ILL-FATED Norton bus that killed 16 persons in Benguet.

TOOTS SOBERANO

# 'Killer highway' kills 9

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

BACOLOD CITY—Are "bad spirits" haunting EB Magalona town's highway?

Some residents of EB Magalona, 23.91 kilometers south of here, were beginning to think so following a series of traffic accidents in the so-called "killer highway" of the town that has already claimed the lives of nine persons in six weeks.

They said the 12-km highway of EB Magalona town is "*mari-it*" (haunted).

But Senior Insp. Paterno Torralba, the town police chief, said the "reckless driving of undisciplined drivers" caused the accidents.

Drivers ignore even traffic advisories posted in accident-prone, school zone and populated areas, Torralba said.

EB Magalona Mayor Romulo Rhoel Mogul met with Torralba on Wednesday to discuss putting policemen to man the highway, especially at night, as a deterrent to reckless driving.

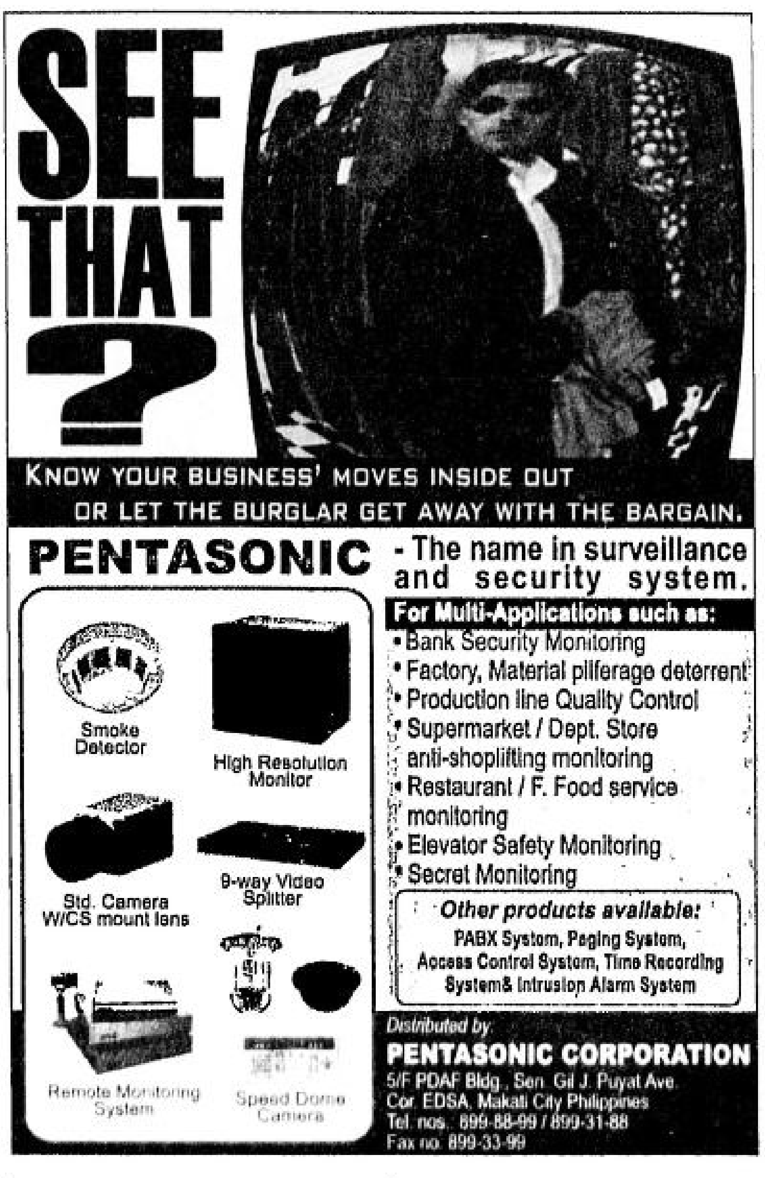
Police records showed that 70 percent of the traffic and vehicular accidents along the highway took place at night.

But Torralba said assigning policemen to the highway would not be the sole solution to the problem.

He scored the failure of contractors of the Department of Public Works and Highways to put up early warning devices and signage on the highway, and the absence of streetlights.

But since the residents continue to talk of "bad spirits" along the highway, the Catholic Church in the town decided to act.

Parish priest Fr. Abenir Pineda will hold a Mass at and bless the highway today, purportedly to drive away the bad spirits.



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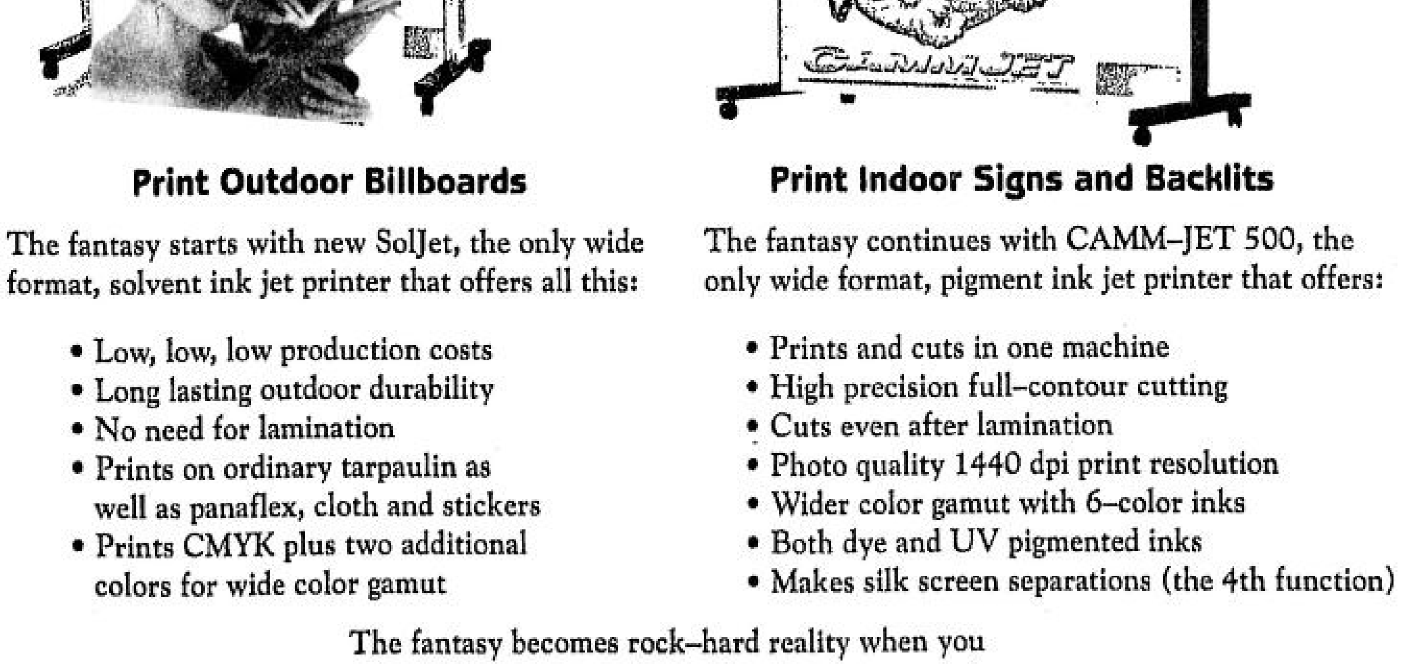

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# Jovy bares new way to get Marcos money

From page A1

signed by the Council of Europe.

"Article 12 of the Protocol allows direct restitution of the ill-gotten wealth by the requested State (Switzerland) with a view to its return to the rightful owners (in this case, the Philippines)," he said in a faxed statement.

Salonga said Swiss lawyer Sergio Salvioni informed him just last week that the Swiss government "has already accepted this additional Protocol and the Swiss Parliament is scheduled to approve the same in its forthcoming session this (February) or this coming June."

Salvioni is one of the three Swiss lawyers who represented the Philippines in the various Swiss courts. In December 1997, the Swiss Federal Supreme Court issued two landmark decisions awarding to the Philippine government the Marcos Swiss bank deposits in the name of five foundations.

Salonga said the court's decisions had set a precedent in Swiss banking history—the transfer of Marcos ill-gotten deposits from the Swiss banks to an escrow account of the Philippine National Bank in Manila even before a Philippine court, the Sandiganbayan, could pass final judgment.

Salvioni also addressed his letter to PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, according to Salonga.

The Swiss lawyer suggested that "in the Bilateral Commission of the two parties (Philippines and Switzerland), Article 12 of the said Protocol be included in the proposed treaty between the two countries.

"Once included and ratified on the Philippine side, the latter can ask the Swiss government to lift the freeze (on the money) and authorize its direct transfer to the Philippines," Salonga said.

The $660 million remains in the PNB's escrow accounts abroad. Not a single centavo has been returned to the Philippines although the Swiss Supreme Court had already allowed the transfer of the funds to the PNB.

The first PCGG chair recalled that Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., who is also the foreign secretary, was in Switzerland last December to represent the Philippines in the Bilateral Commission.

Kilosbayan had just taken up the matter with Guingona and Yorac "so they can resort to the alternative remedial measure, given the inefficiency of our judicial system," Salonga said.

Salonga noted that the 1991 forfeiture case against the Marcoses took nine years to be resolved by the Sandiganbayan's first division.

Reversing the division's 2000 ruling, Garchitorena said that until the PCGG presented "authenticated translations" of the Swiss Supreme Court decisions the five foundations must be presumed owners of the funds.

Salonga said Garchitorena should have required the PCGG and the Solicitor General in open court—at any time and on any working day during the supervening years—to submit the authenticated translations.

The anti-graft court could have also ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs or the Philippine Embassy in Switzerland to submit the documents.

### 'Negligence'

Salonga said it was "inexcusable negligence on the part of the First Division of the Sandiganbayan under Garchitorena to have noticed this supposed lapse only after more than four years (since the decisions came out)."

Since the anti-graft court had set the forfeiture case "for further proceedings," Salonga said he believed this technical lapse can be easily cured by the Sandiganbayan.

However, he said, the case might again "take some time."

The Marcoses will surely move to reconsider the revised decision and reserve their right to appeal the adverse ruling to the Supreme Court, if their motion to reconsider is denied."

"All these slow motion, dilatory tactics will involve tremendous delay. Hence, it may be necessary to consider the alternative measure now found in Article 12 of the protocol," he said.

The PCGG is expected to meet today with Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo to discuss their next moves to win back the forfeiture case.

The two agencies would decide whether to move for a reconsideration of the Sandiganbayan decision, or go to the Supreme Court to question the anti-graft court's decision and move for a final judgment in the forfeiture case.

Robert Swift, American lead counsel of martial law victims, criticized the PCGG for its handling of the case.

In a statement, Swift said the recent decision of the Sandiganbayan meant "many more years and countless legal fees would be spent (by the government) trying to adduce proof that is illusory."

### Folly

"The recent decision of the Sandiganbayan demonstrates the folly of the Philippine government in trying to gain closure over the Marcos wealth through the Philippine judiciary," Swift said.

He wanted the government to give up its claim on the $30 million in Arelma accounts, which the PCGG originally wanted to add to the $660 million in escrow accounts of the PNB.

"It is time for the Macapagal administration to get serious about giving compensation to the hapless martial law victims, particularly a hefty $30 million deposited in the US District Court which the administration has consistently denied them," Swift said.

The Arelma funds are now deposited in the court of US District Judge Manuel Real.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza lashed out at Swift for claiming that the evidence presented by the government so far to prove that the $660 million in escrow accounts abroad were Marcos funds was "illusory."

"That sounds more like what a lawyer for the Marcoses would say. Is he lawyering for the Marcoses?" the PCGG official said.

He also twitted the Marcoses for saying that the Sandiganbayan's reversal of the Sept. 19, 2000 summary judgment was a "vindication" for them.

"This is no vindication in the Sandiganbayan's ruling. It just said that there was no authenticated translation of the Swiss Supreme Court decisions. It did not dismiss the case and say that the money was not really ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses. The court just wanted to set the case for further proceedings," Carranza said.

Carranza also hit back at Swift for "act(ing) as if the PCGG is bound by the decision of the Hawaii court" on the $2-billion judgment of the human rights victims against the Marcos estate.

"We are not going to compensate the human rights victims upon authority of a court in Hawaii," Carranza said.

He said the authority should come from here. This was why the PCGG is pushing for the human rights bill that seeks to provide $200 million to the human rights victims, including the class plaintiffs in the Hawaii class suit.

But Carranza admitted that the implementation of the bill, if ever it gets passed into law, would be further delayed because of the Sandiganbayan's decision on Friday.

### Dead in the water

Swift's Filipino co-counsel in the human rights class suit, Rod Domingo Jr., said that the bill was now "dead in the water" because of the Sandiganbayan ruling.

But the government can still pursue the bill even as it either seeks a reconsideration of the Sandiganbayan decision or get a final judgment against the Marcoses in the forfeiture case before the Supreme Court.

Even so, the bill cannot be implemented until after the Philippine government gets a final judgment against the Marcoses in the forfeiture case.

Carranza said that the Philippine government would not give up its claim on the Arelma funds because it believed that this was part of the wealth stolen by the Marcoses.

# GMA proposes int'l coalition against poverty

From page A1

tral Park, carrying placards, effigies and streamers demanding that world leaders and businessmen address global poverty.

An effigy represented an eagle with the globe in its claws, which, the protesters said, meant US control of the world.

Some of the protesters shouted, "Mindanao, come to war" amid reports that US troops are helping Philippine soldiers hunt members of the Abu Sayyaf.

The Abu Sayyaf bandit group, which has been holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse in captivity for the past eight months, has been identified as part of the al-Qaida terrorist network of Osama bin Laden.

"The world should know what America is doing in the Philippines," one of the protesters said.

The rally appeared to be fun to some of the protesters.

Three men dressed up in tuxedos, carried a tray of champagne glasses and displayed placards with the words "Billionaires Club," referring to the wealthy businessmen who attended the forum.

The protesters said the international community could not stamp out terrorism by the mere use of military might, a position that Ms Macapagal shared and discussed during her meetings with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

"Food, not bombs," read one placard.

One protester played the flute, a few others were pushed in wheelchair, and many beat drums as winds that brought temperatures down to sub-zero blew pieces of paper and scarves away.

### Dinner

Later in the evening, Ms Macapagal hosted a dinner for journalists, and a change of mood took place.

NO to IMPERIALIST GLOBALIZATION
U.S. TROOPS OUT of the PHILIPPINES!
US TROOPS OUT
PO
NOT CROSS
DEPT.

**PROTESTERS** greet President Macapagal as she visits Queens in New York City. RUFINO GONZELES II

According to a transcript of a brief interview with the President, she agreed to accept an offer from Jordan's King Abdullah to pass on his country's expertise in fighting terrorism to the Philippines.

This, Tiglao said, could come in the form of training for Philippine intelligence officials in Jordan.

Ms Macapagal quoted the Jordanian king as telling her that since the Philippines gets its information from the United States, "we might as well tell you directly things that are relevant to your fight against terrorism."

The President said she might send Cesar Garcia, director general of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, to attend the training.

# Terror cells exist in SEA, says Gloria

WASHINGTON—Terrorist cells exist across Southeast Asia, President Macapagal-Arroyo told Newsweek magazine, part of the reason she has welcomed US troops onto Philippine soil to train its military.

The US troops will stay for six months and "enhance the capability of our soldiers to fight terrorism with training, intelligence and equipment from the United States," Ms Macapagal said in an interview in the magazine's Monday issue.

"I would like to be successful in fighting terror so that we can move on to fight poverty, so we don't have another breeding ground for terrorists."

More than 100 American soldiers are training local troops to hunt down the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping group that allegedly has links to the al-Qaida network of terror suspect Osama bin Laden.

Ms Macapagal said the al-Qaida was not the only terrorist group active in her region, though she did say that Bin Laden's brother-in-law had lived in the Philippines until 1995.

The al-Qaida operated front organizations in the Philippines, but after Manila assisted the US prosecution of the men responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombings, "Bin Laden's brother-in-law left and the front organizations closed shop," she said.

"As far as I am concerned, terrorism is not a franchise only of the al-Qaida," she said. "We fight terrorism wherever it is." ***AFP***

# Grumblings surface during 'Balikatan'

From page A1

Operations Command.

"This will be a pure training exercise without any operational testing. (In the Mindanao Balikatan), they have operational testing," Lorenzana said, when asked the difference between the two exercises.

The "main" Balikatan will have three components—US Special Forces holding their maneuvers at Fort Magsaysay, the US Navy training with their Filipino counterparts in Cavite, and the US Air Force holding exercises at Clark Field, Pampanga.

For the past three weeks, a precursor exercise to Balikatan, dubbed "Balance Piston" has been operating out of the former US air base in Clark.

But contrary to the intended camaraderie the joint exercises are supposed to foster, grumblings have been heard from several Filipino participants there.

Donning his green flying suit and carrying his helmet, a Philippine Air Force pilot, who sought anonymity, looked longingly at the PAF ramp at Clark at the six C-130s and three MH-47s—all sophisticated US warplanes—glimmering under the Sunday morning sun.

The "steel birds" have been flying in and out of Clark, doing training flights over Luzon, since Jan. 11 when US troops began arriving for the month-long Balance Piston exercise.

Grudgingly, the Filipino pilot spilled the truth: "We never got to operate the controls of those planes."

### Joy rides?

In training flights, he said, the PAF pilots like him were "mere observers." They would sit behind the American pilots, definitely not "shoulder-to-shoulder" in the manner the joint exercises were conceived.

A PAF official bitterly called the flights "just joy rides."

Only on orientation flights, which were few, were the Filipino pilots able to familiarize themselves with the planes' controls, the pilot said.

The first and last PAF official who was allowed to sit at the controls was Col. Edgar Calvo, he recalled.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said he found the practice disturbing.

"If that's the way it is, (Philippine and US military officials) could always claim there is a need to be continuously training," Ocampo said.

This, according to him, could be an excuse for the permanent stay of US troops in the country.

On the other hand, a Department of Foreign Affairs official said US pilots had "abused our hospitality with their unrestricted movements."

The official was referring to unilateral flights that are not allowed under the terms of the VFA.

The PAF pilot tried to rationalize the odd practice, saying "of course, (USAF) pilots have responsibility over their planes."

Where does this leave PAF pilots who, according to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, are supposed to learn modern techniques through "on-the-job training?"

"We try to learn from the *kwentuhan* (chats), by observing when we're included in the crew," the pilot said.

The MH-47, a transport aircraft of the US Army, is a "beauty," the pilot said. He said the joint exercises only made pilots like him realize that the PAF was really lagging behind other nations in terms of military hardware.

Glancing at the US military's state-of-the-art communications equipment sheltered in air-conditioned tents, the pilot wondered if the AFP ever got its share of modernization funds from the conversion of the Clark and Subic bases into special economic zones and from the sale of parcels of military land in Metro Manila.

### Ranger camp

In a camp on the edge of the Basilan jungle, the Philippine Army's elite strike force plots attacks against the Osama bin Laden-linked Abu Sayyaf with 30-year-old rifles and a prayer, according to an Agence France Presse report.

The Cabunbata base on Basilan Island is home to the Infantry's 1st Scout Ranger Battalion, the unit trained in jungle warfare against Moro guerrillas, including the Abu Sayyaf.

The camp is ringed with razor wire and is walled-in by makeshift huts, which serve as the officers' spartan quarters, about a kilometer from enemy territory.

Like their panther-and-lightning insignia, the Rangers move stealthily through the jungle terrain in search of the elusive kidnappers.

Despite the soldiers' persistence, the merciless environment and their decrepit armaments have slowed down their hunt, leading to embarrassing setbacks and escapes by the 80-odd strong Abu Sayyaf.

With Balikatan 02-1, the Rangers said they hoped to get new arms and military hardware to match their impressive black jungle outfits.

"In terms of training, we already have so much of that. But if the Americans provide (equipment), it would be an additional boost," said 2nd Lt. Ramon Gurat, a 27-year-old Ranger team leader.

### Real needs

What his unit needs most is modern firearms, communications equipment and tracking devices that could locate the enemy using satellites, Gurat said.

During the six-month joint operation, US soldiers will accompany local troops in pursuing the terrorists but would not be allowed to take part in combat. They can fire their weapons only in self-defense.

Gurat said sending US soldiers to the frontline would be foolhardy and dangerous since the foreign troops are not used to Basilan's terrain.

"I don't think the US troops can take on guerrilla-type operations in the jungle," said Gurat, a Philippine Military Academy graduate.

Tactically, he said, the enemy would consider the US troops prime targets because "if they could inflict casualties on the foreigners, it would embarrass the government."

"(And) I don't think they would like to eat sardines and rice for days and drink untreated water from creeks," Gurat said, as he cradled a 1999 Austrian-made Steyr assault rifle, the most modern firearm owned by his unit.

### Commando units

Each Ranger team is composed of seven commandos operating independently. They use guerrilla tactics to search for and destroy enemy forces.

There are about 500 Scout Rangers in Cabunbata with an average age of 30 years—the same age as their standard issue M-16 rifles and Vietnam-era two-way radios, said Capt. Harold Cabunog, command officer of the 10th Ranger Company.

Many rifles jam or misfire during operations, and the rebels are sometimes able to intercept military radio messages, Cabunog added.

Each team is equipped with only three night vision goggles and has to walk at arm's length during reconnaissance and assault operations.

"So we begin our day with the Psalm 91 prayer for protection," Cabunog said.

Despite their limitations, Cabunog said he was convinced his Scouts are among the best and the Abu Sayyaf will be crushed.

"This is the Filipinos' war against the Abu Sayyaf," he said, warning the rebels that "your days are numbered if we are fully supported by the Americans. Your only option is to surrender, or die." ***With an AFP report***

# Send lawyers to war front for reality check

From page A1

nullifying contracts.

The fecundity of lawyers in mauling the Constitution with suits that have the effect of causing paralysis is legend.

The larger framework of the emotional debate over the deployment of American forces in Basilan and Zamboanga is about whether national security interests and sovereignty are mutually exclusive. They are not.

Both the justice department and the petitioners cite the Constitution as the basis of their positions. So, the overburdened Supreme Court is again asked to act as referee on the military exercises issue even as it is swamped by cases filed by Rene Saguisag to delay methodically and indefinitely the plunder trial of his client, former President Joseph Estrada, before the Sandiganbayan.

### Speculation

The petition goes beyond asserting that the exercises violated the Constitution and plunges into the realm of speculation by stating that they would "lead to a shooting war."

How is it too sure this will happen? An example of the nonsense belted out by the petition is the fatuous conclusion (before the fact) that "to unleash American GIs" on the Abu Sayyaf "is not only an unmitigated insult against the Filipino soldier but a negation of our self-respect as a people and a mockery of the Constitution."

With regard to the "insult," the Armed Forces of the Philippines has already acknowledged that it needs better weapons and skills to fight the Abu Sayyaf, which it has failed to vanquish. The AFP has also said that the participation of the American troops in the exercises can only enhance its ability to crush the Abu Sayyaf.

The AFP has already been insulted, humiliated and mocked by the Abu Sayyaf. So, why are we talking about being insulted by the inputs of training and weapons technology into the AFP.

If the AFP is better trained and equipped, it is better able to end the continuing insult being inflicted by the Abu Sayyaf on not only the military arm of the state but also on the state itself.

As of now, it is not the Americans who have delivered blows to our self-respect and made a mockery of our Constitution and of the authority of the state to assert our national sovereignty over the Abu Sayyaf.

It is the Abu Sayyaf.

### Hypothetical

The claim that the deployment of 600 American soldiers participating in the exercises violates sovereignty is at best hypothetical.

There is apparently a broad support, based on anecdotal evidence, for letting the Americans in on the AFP campaign to crush the Abu Sayyaf.

The mood of the nation seems to be that crush them first, with the help of others, before we can even talk about sovereignty which is a fictitious concept in the terrorist-held areas in Basilan.

There's too much quibbling over operational details, such as how many Americans will be assigned to a platoon, where they are to be located, how they should act, and who will be in charge.

The reality on the ground, based on experiences of joint commands in World War II, is that conceptual agreements placing operations under, say, a British, American or French commander, are at best theoretical and do not work. Constituent multinational forces exercise autonomy in the field.

Lawyers, as well as armchair opponents of this deployment, seem to think that operations are conducted according to the positions and movements of pieces on a chessboard.

In the field, the concept of who is in command blurs with the flow of battle.

### Lawyers

Lawyers do not fight wars or battles on the front where combatants get killed or maimed. They fight over fine legal points of the law in the sheltered and serene arena of the courtroom, where no blood is shed except saliva.

When lawyers talk about national security and sovereignty issues stemming from war conditions, they fail to consider the volatile nature and the reality of warfare whose outcome decides who exercises sovereignty and whether a constitution becomes an effective instrument of sovereignty or a worthless scrap of paper flouted by rebels.

In rebel-controlled areas, over which the government is trying to reassert its authority, sovereignty is a fictitious construct and the Constitution is worth less than a P100 bill.

Maybe, for a reality test, lawyers should be sent to observe the front to validate their static and narrow interpretation of sovereignty and legality.

There, lawyers' contentions over constitutional issues become irrelevant.

Speaking of irrelevance, I recall that when a Philippine business delegation traveled to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the 1960s, the delegation was divided into sectors meeting with their communist counterparts.

When the delegation of Filipino lawyers asked the communists for their counterparts, the communists in Warsaw said: "We have no lawyers; they are in jail."

This is what reality is about.

# Pope to visit RP next year for World Meet of Families

From page A1

home of some of the world's oldest religions.

Highlights of the affair will be the Eucharistic celebration, to be said in different languages, and the festive meeting with the Pope or the papal legate.

"This is good news, something that we should be happy about," said CBCP president Orlando Quevedo.

Preparations for the World Meeting of Families topped the agenda of the 84th plenary assembly of bishops from all over the country. The three-day assembly ended last week.

The CBCP said the dioceses had been tasked with conducting an intensive formation campaign this year, with the discussion of specially designed modules for fathers, mothers and children.

As part of the preparations, the Catholic Church has also set "special days of celebration" this year, to be led by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and the CBCP.

March 19 will be observed as the Festival of Fathers; the second Sunday of May as the Festival of Mothers; Oct. 2 as the Festival of Children; and the whole month of December as the Festival of Families.

This is only the fourth time that the Roman Catholic Church will be celebrating the World Meeting of Families. The first and third meetings took place in Rome and the second in Rio de Janeiro.

# AFP starts search . . .

From page A1

the American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, along with Filipina nurse Edeborah Yap.

"Her supposed disappearance coincides with the rumored payment of $20,000 by foreign journalists to be able to have exclusive TV footage of the Burnham couple in (Abu Sayyaf) custody," Manlangit said in memo dated Feb. 1.

In his memo to Reyes, Manlangit said Dela Cruz's colleague from Net 25 had told him that she could not contact her partner on her mobile phone.

Yesterday, however, Manlangit said Net 25 executives had told him that Dela Cruz contacted them several times since Jan. 19 but made no mention she was kidnapped.

About three weeks ago, Dela Cruz told the INQUIRER that she was leaving for "an island in Mindanao" and that she was working on "a big story."

Dela Cruz has made several trips to the Abu Sayyaf lair for exclusive interviews, but this is the first time that officials say she has failed to contact her colleagues.

The Abu Sayyaf has kidnapped several foreign journalists and demanded hefty ransoms for their release.

Last week, a joint RP-US military training exercise was launched to crush the Abu Sayyaf, a small group of bandits allegedly linked to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden. *With an AFP report*

# *'Oldest' Bicolano longs for pension as war veteran*

From page A1

he stays with anybody who wants to adopt him, at least for a day.

"I came to the Philippines from the United States in 1941 to look for my sister Agnes. I tried hard to find her but to no avail," Shull said.

A native of Iriga City in Camarines Sur, he now lives in Barangay San Vicente here after seeking refuge in different places in Albay.

His secret for his long life? Daily exercises like jogging and push-ups. Until recently, he could still do push-ups with just his fingers. He's now limping. His sense of hearing is also fading.

As for food, Shull prefers vegetables and fruits. He seldom eats meat and rice. "I eat rice only now because it's what my benefactor gives me, but I sometimes get stomachache," he said.

Shull is staying at the house of Alex Barredo. Before that, he stayed with Rizalde Oliquino and Jonel Riosa, both of Tiwi town in Albay, and many others since 1957.

"Aside from Alex, a Chinese-Filipino businessman, Solomon Chan, is helping me by giving me soap, food and other supplies for my daily needs," the centenarian said.

TONY MACASINAG/PDI SOURTHERN LUZON BUREAU

SHULL: Finger push-ups at 113.

He stayed with his father in San Diego, California, until he got married there. He came back to the Philippines at the age of 53 to look for his sister Agnes after the death of his sons, Joseph and Charles.

### Guerrilla days

World War II prevented him from returning to the United States, so he joined the guerrilla movement and served as a photographer.

A man who can speak English, Spanish, Filipino and a bit of Latin, aside from Bicol, Shull had rendered at least four years of service in the guerrilla movement.

As a member of the 51st Division's 52nd Infantry Regiment, Camp Isarog Unit, Shull was assigned to spy on the Japanese.

"I was a photographer and was tasked with doing surveillance of places where the Japanese were staying," he said.

On Sept. 16, 1946, Shull said his group surrendered to the government under General Executive Order Nos. 21 and 22, which were signed by then President Sergio Osmeña Sr.

Despite his service in the guerrilla movement, he did not receive benefits.

"Unlike other guerrillas, I don't even receive a single centavo from the government," Shull lamented.

In the United States, he said, people like him have pension and even get to stay in a home. "I really want to go back to America," he said.

"Here in the Philippines, I have no alternative but to beg when I have no money for my fare in going to the poblacion from Barangay San Vicente," he said.

### Letter to Reagan

In December 1982, Shull wrote then US President Ronald Reagan to inform him about the problems he was facing as a Filipino-American veteran.

Reagan, through US Army commanding officer, Brig. Gen. Ronald W. Zeltman, responded and assured him that the US government will help him. The US president asked him to send pertinent documents.

But the Philippine veterans' officials did not help him produce the requirements, according to Shull.

"Though I am old enough, I can still manage myself. God is taking care of me," he said.

Asked about his birth certificate as proof that he is a centenarian, Shull said he left it in the United States, hoping that he can return there. His passport was missing, he said.

He, however, showed his identification card as a senior citizen. The ID was issued in 1993 by the Senior Citizen Affairs office in Tiwi town. He was then 105 years old.

Speaking always in English, Shull said he was happy even without his relatives because he was still alive with people taking care of him.

TWO TOPNOTCHERS.
ONE SCHOOL.

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Dennis T. San Juan

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*October 2001*

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Michael F. [illegible]
Annabelle M. Mora
Rowena V. [illegible]

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## NBA EAST

# Iverson sparkles for Sixers; Jazz snap Blazers' win streak

MILWAUKEE—The Philadelphia 76ers scrambled to an 86-81 win over the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday in a rematch of the 2001 Eastern Conference finals.

Philadelphia shot 33 percent through the first three quarters, but sparked by Allen Iverson they came to life in the fourth session.

Iverson hit a three-pointer with eight seconds left to give the 76ers an 82-81 lead before point guard Eric Snow sank two free throws to seal victory.

Ray Allen had 20 points for Milwaukee and Glenn Robinson added 18.

The Bucks have lost five of their last six games.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, a volatile Rasheed Wallace was ejected from the game and had to watch from the bench as the Jazz defeated the Portland Trail Blazers, 97-96.

The Portland forward, who set NBA records in the last two years for the most technical fouls, received a technical in the middle of the third period after screaming at a referee.

John Stockton hit a layup with 36 seconds left to play to allow the Jazz to take control. Stockton, who will be 40 in March, had 17 points and nine assists.

The 18-year NBA veteran was the key player on the winning basket. He scampered past the Portland defenders before passing to a wide-open Scott Padgett to secure the win.

The Jazz were bolstered by the steady Karl Malone, who scored 24 points and had 13 rebounds.

Malone, who went into the game with a career-high 80 percent shooting from the free throw line, hit one of two to give the Jazz a 95-93 lead.

It looked like the Jazz would lose Malone when he limped off the court in the fourth quarter after a collision under the basket, but he returned minutes later.

Malone has missed only three of 1,319 games over 16 seasons due to injury. Utah ended Portland's five-game winning streak.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Jason Kidd hit his 43rd career triple-double to lead the Nets to a 98-91 victory over the Toronto Raptors.

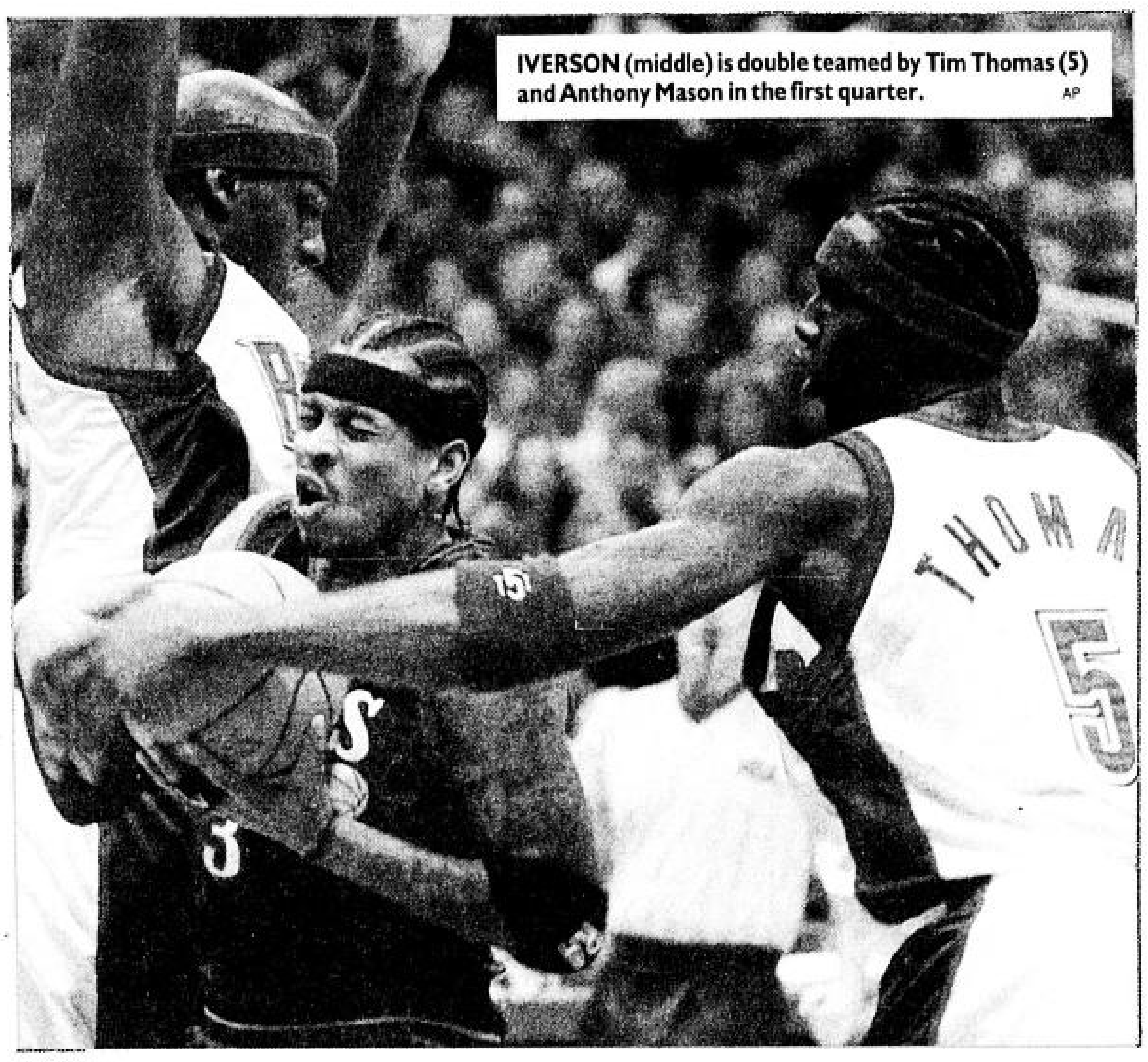
Kidd sank a three-pointer with 83 seconds left to extend the Nets' home winning streak to seven.

*Reuters*

### Magic vs Spurs

SOLAR Entertainment will telecast today's NBA game between the San Antonio Spurs and the Orlando Magic "live" at 9 a.m. on the Solar cable channel (Skycable-24 and Homecable-17) with a replay at 8 p.m.

**Complete results:** Utah 97, Portland 96; Philadelphia 86, Milwaukee 81; Atlanta 101, LA Clippers 94; New Jersey 98, Toronto 91; Detroit 115, Cleveland 107; Chicago 97 Seattle 91. *AP*



**IVERSON (middle) is double teamed by Tim Thomas (5) and Anthony Mason in the first quarter.** AP

# C. Lhuillier searching for center

**By Roy Luarca**

THERE are 30 aspirants left, but Cebuana Lhuillier coach Francis Rodriguez is still hoping that one big guy, a pure center, would walk into the Dumlao Gym in Mandaluyong and join the tryouts to be held from 9 a.m. till noon today and tomorrow.

Rodriguez said he'd further trim the roster pool to 17 by Wednesday and by that time he's hoping that somebody in the mold of Busan Asiad-candidate Jeffrey Flowers, the 6-foot-8 starting center of the FedEx Laguna Lakers, would have arrived.

Though there were Fil-Ams among the 80 who showed up for the Gems tryouts last week, Rodriguez said there's no legit center in the fold save for the returning Willy Mejia, a 6-foot-6 PBA draftee.

As far as firepower is concerned, however, Rodriguez has more than what he needs.

Original Gems Stephen Padilla and Peter Naron and Bruce Dacia, Jercules Tangcay, Paeng Santos, Buboy Rodriguez, Jomar Tierra and former Alaska slasher Jon Ordonio are around.

Also ready for the picking are Dave Bautista, Roy Lura, Carlos Sayon, Melvin Taguines, Chris de Jesus and Eugene Quilban, a Rodriguez protégé with the San Sebastian College Stags.

Quilban, who took a one-year break from playing in the MBA, still holds the PBA record in assists for one game with 29.

With these players, Rodriguez feels he can already put up a competitive roster. Add one more center and Rodriguez feels the Gems would be prime contenders for this year's MBA Southern Conference and national finals.

# Slam dunk

**NBA NOTES**

*Henry Liao*

IT'S best the NBA permanently scraps the Slam Dunk Championship as an NBA All-Star Saturday event.

The jam session has steadily deteriorated in recent years because of the quality (or the lack thereof) of the participants. Last year's contest was so lackluster that no one among the six second-rate competitors—to even eventual champion Desmond Mason of Seattle—was able to register a perfect 50 points in any of his dunk in the entire tournament. Worse, it featured numerous missed dunks by a nondescript cast of three rookies and three second-year players.

This year's roster, which has been reduced to four participants, is far from being glittery either. Nowhere are the names of the "real" dunking elite like Toronto's Vince Carter, the LA Lakers' Kobe Bryant, Orlando's Tracy McGrady and even Washington's Michael Jordan (at age 39 he might have sprung a surprise) to be found.

It was the absence of top-rate dunkers that forced the NBA to cancel the event in 1998. (It was replaced by the 2ball competitions, which also gave way to the three-on-three Hoop-It-Up tournament this year.)

After the entire All-star festivities were discarded in 1999 as a result of a protracted labor dispute, the league reinstated the Slum Dunk Championship in 200 due to the clamor of the fans.

That year, the event was participated in by such young, exciting acrobatic artists as Carter, McGrady, Houston's Steve Francis and Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse. Carter gained the championship against Francis and McGrady placed third.

Unfortunately, neither Carter, Francis nor McGrady showed up for last year's competition due to various reasons and the field was reduced to a battle among no-names. Mason, then a rookie, beat Utah's DeShawn Stevenson (also a first-year pro at the time) for the title with Charlotte's baron Davis (then a sophomore) placing third overall.

# Els completes coast-to-coast victory

MELBOURNE, Australia—South African Ernie Els brushed off a mid-round challenge Sunday from Greg Norman to complete a start-to-finish victory in the Heineken Classic.

In cool, blustery conditions, the Big Easy led from the first round to the last on the Royal Melbourne composite course to close with a 3-under 69, a 17-under-par total of 271.

That gave him a five-shot victory over England's David Howell, who had a 68 Sunday, and Australians Peter Fowler (67) and Peter O'Malley (70).

"This is a big win for me," Els said after boosting his two-year-old daughter, Samantha, high into the air after his win. "I was very nervous - the greens here are fantastic but they're very quick. I knew I had a big lead, but it can go fast."

On Sunday, it nearly did.

Norman birdied five of six holes through 10 to pull to within two shots of Els. But a run of pars and back-to-back bogeys on 15 and 16 moved Norman out of contention, preventing him from winning his first tournament since the 1998 Greg Norman International in Sydney.

New Zealander Michael Campbell, the defending champion, was alone in fifth place after a 69 Sunday.

Norman, who finished with a 69, was tied for sixth with England's Nick Faldo (69) and Australian Stephen Leaney (70).

Els joined fellow South African Retief Goosen, the 2001 US Open champion, as big-margin winners in consecutive tournaments co-sanctioned by the European and Australasian tours. Last week, Goosen won the Johnnie Walker Classic at Perth, Australia by eight strokes after taking a European-tour-record lead of 13 shots into the final round.

Last year, Els waited until December to win his first tournament of 2001—the South African Players Championship. *AP*

**ELS (right) hoists his daughter Samantha, 2, after winning the Heineken Classic.** REUTERS

# Perez keeps lead

PEBBLE BEACH, California—US PGA Tour rookie Pat Perez retained his four-shot lead after the third round of the $4 million Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Saturday.

The 25-year-old from Phoenix, Arizona, who began the day four strokes in front of Lee Janzen, returned a 70 to finish 15-under-par on 201.

Janzen (70) was in joint second place on 205 alongside Matt Gogel, who climbed the leaderboard with a five-under-par 67. A further stroke adrift on 206 was Andrew Magee (67).

Jerry Smith finished on 208 after a level-par 72, with Paul Goydos, Fred Couples, Steve Flesch, Brent Schwarzrock, Australia's Mathew Goggin, Jesper Parnevik of Sweden and New Zealand's Phil Tataurangi all seven-under-par on 209. *Reuters*

# Hingis tops Toray Pan Pacific

TOKYO—Top seeded Martina Hingis needed three sets Sunday to defeat American Monica Seles in the final of $1.22 million Toray Pan Pacific tennis tournament.

Hingis, who won this event for the fourth time in six years, downed Seles 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-3 before a crowd of 7,083 at Tokyo's Metropolitan Gymnasium.

"I was bit luckier in the first set and pulled it out in the third set," said Hingis, currently fourth in the world rankings. "It's a great feeling to win, it was a great match today. Monica is always tough and you have to play your best against her."

Both players held serve in the first set before Seles built up a 5-1 lead in the tie breaker. But Hingis fought back to win it 8-6. Third seeded Seles came back in the second set when she broke Hingis to take a 5-4 lead and then served out the second set to win 6-4.

"It was important to win the first set and I lifted my level in the third," said Hingis, who lost to American Jennifer Capriati in the final of the Australian Open a week ago.

Hingis, who defeated Seles 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the semifinals of the Australian Open, jumped out to a 3-0 lead before finishing Seles off in a match that lasted 1 hour and 38 minutes. *AP*

# Pharmaton run slated March 24

ALL roads lead to Baguio City when the first leg of the highly successful Adidas Pharmaton 10K Running Circuit fires off on March 24 at Burnham Park.

Race director Raffy Uytiepo said the race has been designated anew as the opening salvo of the Baguio Summer Vacation Festival (SUMVAC). Tourism officer Benny Alhambra added that Mayor Bernardo Vergara has been invited to fire the starting gun in the race co-sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Gatorade, Rudy Project, Vacation Hotel Baguio, Mountain King and Osaka Iridology.

Also backing the run are Baguio City Emergency Coordinating Group, Red Cross, Baguio Chapter and the Baguio City National High School. Attractive cash prizes Italian trophies, Adidas running shoes and Rudy Project eyewears will be up for grabs with the top 550 finishers receiving singlets. A pair of running shoes and Rudy Project sunglasses will also be raffled off to lucky finishers.

Registration starts next week at the Adidas Shop Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Adidas Shop Glorietta, Tourism and Public Assistance Center at Malcolm Square, People's Park Baguio City and at Rm 311 GP Arcade Mabini St., Baguio City c/o Steve Guerrero.

ARHO FOUNDERS RACES
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**MARHO RACEFEST**

**Sportsman-businessman Putch Puyat (third from left) receives the champion's trophy from Henry Cojuangco after Puyat's horse Staunch Ally won the recent Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. Cup of the Marho Founders' racing festival at the Santa Ana Park. Also shown (from right) are Marho chair Sandy Javier and commissioners Roger Tandiama and Jun Sevilla.**

# Wind Blown rules Regally

## Raquel's riding style suits well with my horse–Hermie

**By Edwin Villanueva**

WIND Blown kicked off his 2002 campaign by winning the Regally Stakes handily yesterday at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

"*Magandang bwena mano. Sana magtuluy-tuloy ito,*" said a beaming Hermie Esguerra after his massive galloper routed three other rivals in the 1,900-meter event.

The sportsman-businessman from Plaridel, Bulacan also reiterated that Wind Blown is not yet retiring.

"*Ikakarera pa rin natin siya* this year. We're honing him for the First Gentleman Cup to defend his title," added Esguerra, who tapped the services of star jockey Fernando Raquel Jr. for Wind Blown's outing yesterday.

In fact, the Regally Stakes served as Wind Blown's tuneup for the First Gentleman Cup, the first major race Wind Blown won last year under Esguerra's ownership.

"*Ang ganda pa rin ng kundisyon niya. Gustung-gustong tumakbo,*" said Raquel, Esguerra's choice to take over from Pat Dilema as Wind Blown's chief rider.

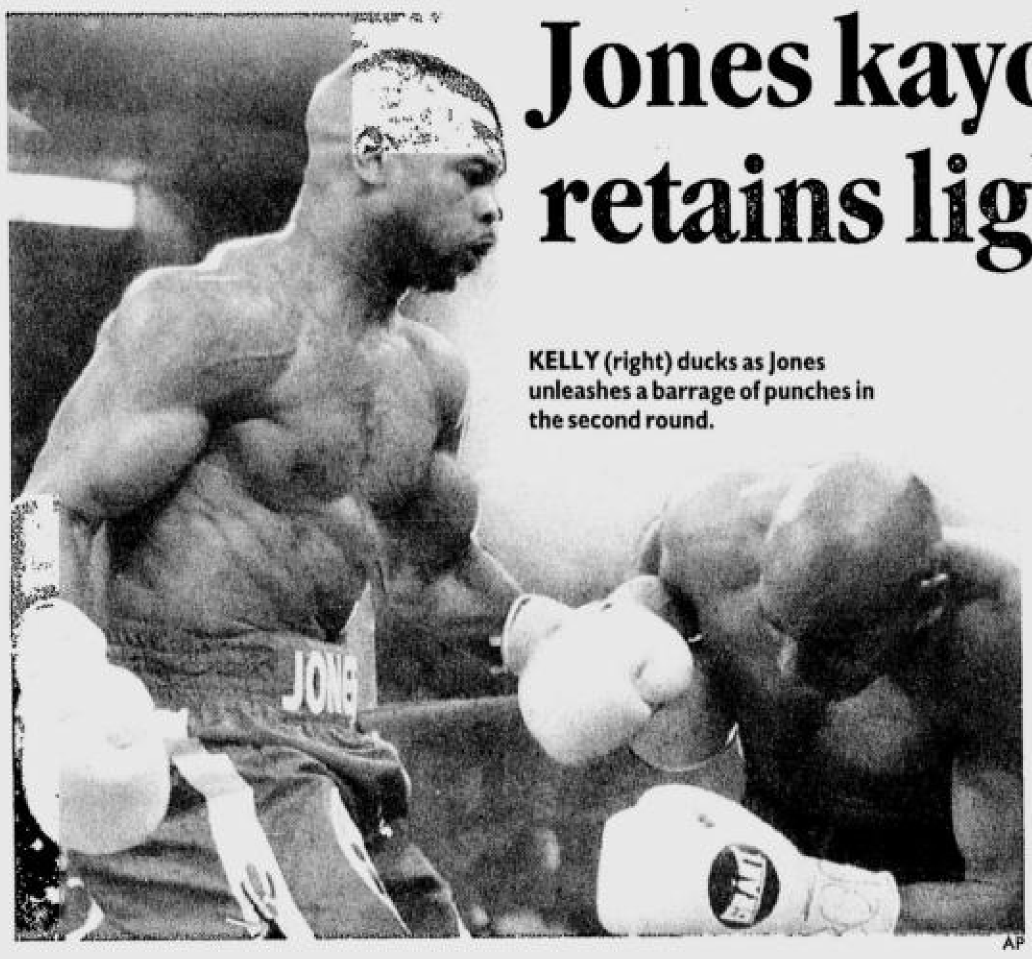
"Dhunoy's (Raquel) riding style suits well with Wind Blown. *Nakita namin na maganda ang ikinikilos ng kabayo pag siya ang may dala,*" noted Esguerra, adding he will also assign Raquel to steer Wind Blown in the FGC on Feb. 24.

Wind Blown, last year's top money-earner (more than P6 million), clocked a fast 1:59 flat (17-24-25-25.5-27.5). He bankrolled P300,000 yesterday.

Providing the other thrill in the race were Santa Ana Park and Charlemagne who battled each other furiously for the runner-up spot.

Santa Ana Park, under Johnny Saulog, eventually claimed second worth P112,500 after nipping the Dominador Borbe Jr.-handled Charlemagne.

**ESGUERRA**



KELLY (right) ducks as Jones unleashes a barrage of punches in the second round.

AP

# Jones kayoes Aussie rival, retains lightheavy titles

MIAMI, Florida—American Roy Jones Jr.retained the undisputed world lightheavyweight championships when he knocked out Australia's Glenn Kelly in the seventh round on Saturday night.

Jones made short work of his opponent after engaging in a televised war of words with undisputed world middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins minutes before his fight.

Kelly was knocked down in the third round following a leaping left uppercut and again in the sixth after a crunching left to the ribs before the contest was finally ended with 75 seconds left in the seventh.

With his arms at his hips and his gloves behind his back, Jones swayed from side-to-side before landing a crunching right cross that dropped the challenger.

Kelly, fighting for a world title for the first time, got to his knees but could not beat the count of referee Max Parker Jr. "It was chicken-fighting," Jones said. "I needed to do that to get him to commit."

As soon as Parker was down counting Kelly out, Jones turned his attentions to Hopkins, who scored a technical knockout over fellow American Carl Daniels in the 10th round of their fight in Reading, Pennslyvania earlier on Saturday night.

"Bernard Hopkins is the same old Bernard Hopkins," Jones said. "Bernard Hopkins needs Roy Jones to make a fight. Roy Jones doesn't need him."

Fighting with the knowledge that an impressive showing would increase demand for the two champions to meet, Jones put on an impressive display. Jones took his career record to 46 wins (37 knockouts) and one defeat.

On the same bill, Ronald Wright retained his IBF junior middleweight title with a technical knockout of fellow American Jason Papillion in the fifth round. *Reuters*

# *Tennis body gets major boost*

THE PHILIPPINE Tennis Association long-term development program got a big boost recently when the Rizal provincial government, under the leadership of Gov. Rebecca Alcantara-Ynares, granted the association a lease of the Rizal Sports Club Complex.

Under the Memorandum of Agreement signed by Gov. Ynares, Philta president Buddy Andrada and Asian Sports Management Inc. chair Arturo "Bong" Ilagan, the tennis association will rehabilitate and manage the RSC complex and upgrade the tennis courts to international standard.

"I hope that this MOA will serve as a vehicle not only to support tennis, but also to help my province regain its prestige in the sporting scene," Ynares, wife of two-time Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares Jr., said.

Ms Ynares, also the former mayor of Binangonan, added that the MOA will also make her constituents become more active in sports, particularly tennis.

Under the Philta long-range development program, the sprawling sports complex will serve as an avenue toward the association's goal of developing new talents with state-of-the-art facilities while generating funds for both the host government and the association.

# Red Bull is ready—Guiao

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

DESPITE losing big men Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi to the national training pool and Kerby Raymundo to Purefoods in an off-season trade, Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao is not losing sleep these days.

"The team is ready for the PBA Governors' Cup," said 42-year-old Guiao in a recent interview. "The players are jelling pretty well; the imports are blending with the locals and everyone's excited and bubbling with youthful enthusiasm."

Without much flair and fanfare, Batang Red Bull Thunder recently won a couple of pre-season games, nosing out highly rated Coca Cola (formerly Pop Cola), 90-88, at the RFM gym in Mandaluyong and, days earlier, beating multi-titled Alaska Milk by 15 big points in Tarlac.

"Still, Red Bull will find the sailing rough in the forthcoming Governors' Cup because of the quality held and high level of competition," said team manager Tony Chua. "For sure, this conference will be one of the closest and most exciting in years," added Chua, who also ranked Ginebra, Shell, defending champion Sta. Lucia, San Miguel beer, Coca-cola and, of course, Red Bull; as the teams to reckon with in the 12-team Governors' Cup which begins on Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Araneta Coliseum.

Batang Red bull, the Photokina franchise of low-key businessman George Chua, is the PBA's youngest team and one of the league's tallest on record. Last August, it made PBA history by winning its first ever title, the Commissioner's Cup, in just five appearances. The amazing feat also gave Red Bull its own version of a grand slam after it beat three sister teams—Ginebra (in the quarterfinals), Purefoods (in the semifinals) and San Miguel Beer (in the best-of-seven finals, 4-2).

"The team has proven that it could do more than simply win games; that it could also win the respect and appreciation of the fans by playing their best," said owner George Chua. "We'll try not to disappoint the fans. We'll play to please the public."

For this year's Governors' Cup, coach Yeng Guiao will bank on prolific 6-foot-4 import Joe Bunn, former Purefoods import Julius Nwosu (6-8) and new additions Vince Hizon (6-2), formerly of Ginebra; battle-tested Noli Locsin (6-3); and Homer Se, a 6-foot-5 standout of the Cebu Gems in the MBA and multi-titled San Sebastian Stags in the NCAA. Also flying the Thunder colors are old reliables Jimwell Torion (5-10) and Junthy Valenzuela (6-2), the prized finds from Cebu; beefy Willie Miller (5-10), who was selected the team's No. 1 pick in 2001 because of his speed and talent to perform fancy plays; Anton Villoria (5-11), a hard-nosed defender who plays point guard after Torion and Miller, and versatile Lordy Tugade (6-3).

Bunn, 26, played for North Carolina State, Old Dominion and Phillips University in the United states. As a pro, he saw action in Europe, spending two years in Spain before moving on to south America where he played for Argentina for a year. "Bunn is unstoppable inside and shoots well from the perimeter," enthused coach Yeng Guiao. "He's not spectacular, but he works real hard in practice and plays awfully hard to win our games."

Nwosu, who carried the Purefoods colors in 1999 and 2000, played for Nigeria in the 1998 World Basketball Championship in Athens, Greece. "He's a hard worker like Bunn," said Guiao. "And although he still has to lose some pounds, he's coming along fine."

Vince, Noli and Homer are doing pretty well, too, teaming up brilliantly with members of their new club. "We're lucky in many ways," said Guiao. "Very rarely do you achieve chemistry in so short a time. But we were able to develop camaraderie among the players right now."

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

# Mango Tee on Feb. 7; tight battles expected

THE MANGO Tee, the annual member-guest invitational of the Alabang Country Club sponsored by Smart Communications, blasts off this Thursday, Feb. 7, with the chase for the low gross plum expected to add more fireworks to an already super tight battle for the overall plum among 200 teams.

Prominent low-handicappers have forged formidable partnerships with the low gross trophy as the foremost aim and among the top pairs include OV Espiritu-Tommy Manotoc, Jingky Tuason-Manoling Chan and Iggy Clavecilla-Francis Gaston.

Bemedalled senior citizens are likewise tipped to figure prominently in the hunt with Seve Roxas Chua taking in Carlo Gamban, Cesar Muñoz-Rudy Samson and Pete Cervantes bringing in Alex Montelibano.

The field will be led by Senen Matoto, last year's member winner who will be backed up by Arnon Rivera, as well as ACCI president Francis Jimenez and past presidents Senator Rene Cayetano, Vic Guzman, Rod Feliciano, Mike Osmeña, Ogie Manalo and Boy Ampil.

More than P20 million worth of tournament and raffle prizes will be disputed in the four-day event topped by a Mitsubishi Lancer GSR with Invecs Sports Mode automatic and Mitsubishi Adventure Super sports Bas which will be given to players who score aces on designated holes.

Hole sponsors are Prudential Life Group, Taylor Made, Lancel's French leather, So Natural Supplement, Shell, The Pearl Manila, Auto Magic, Outback Steakhouse, FedEx, Malayan Insurance, Bangko Sentral, GG&A, Green Cross, Cocolife/Direct Link, Jomon Carpet, Citra Tollways, Friends of Mango Tee, Supreme Construction, Nestle, The Turf Co., Golforce, Joseph Rice Mill, Directories Phils., YKK Zipper Phils., Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance, Sharexchange Brokers, Hadji Andi Tabusalla, Acro Industrial, Security Bank/Diners Club, Standard Chartered, Golfers Clubshares, T&C Construction, Maisog Eng'g and Mori Mori Restaurant.

Mango Tee chair Rene Garovillo said that practice rounds have started to be given to entries all the way up to Wednesday.

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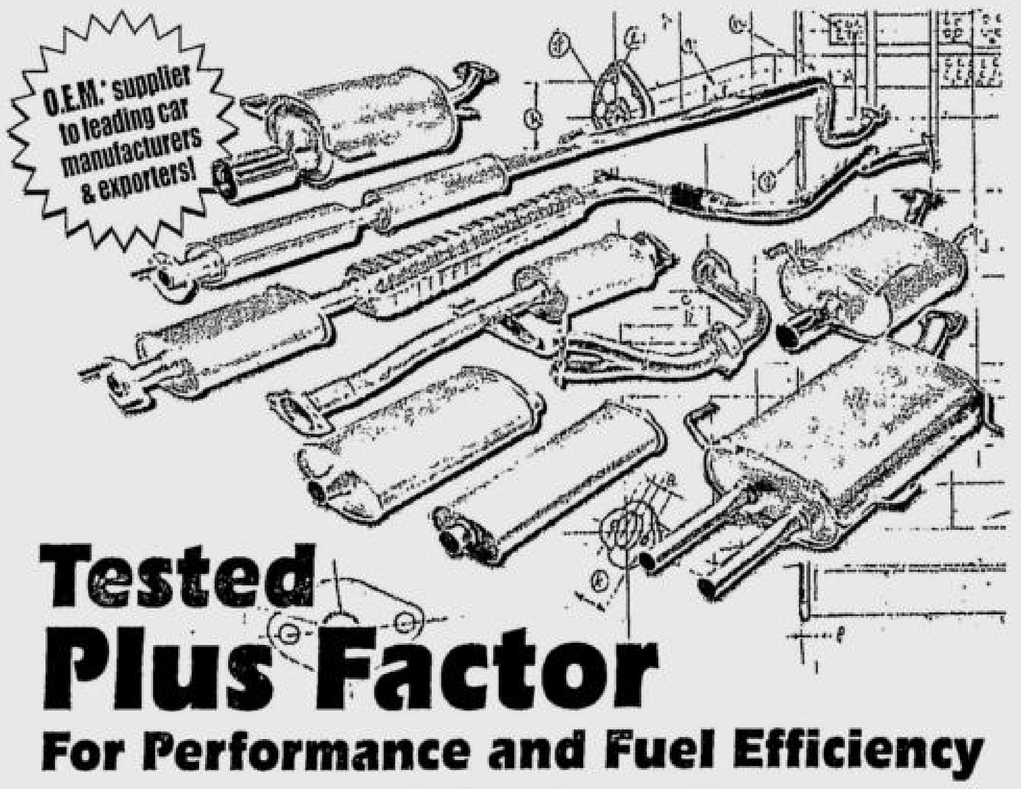
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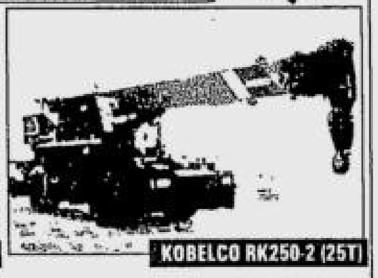

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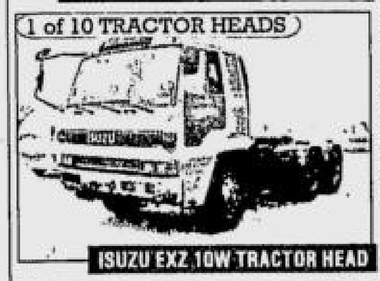

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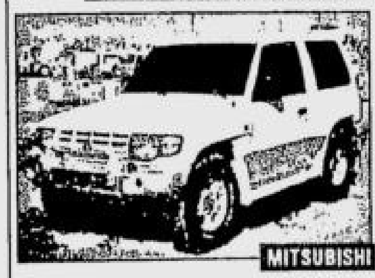

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### Quirimit keeps blue jersey

SIITIAWAN, Malaysia—The Philippines' Arnel Quirimit kept the blue jersey after joining a 141-man pack finish in Stage 2 of the Le Tour de Langkawi yesterday. The 27-year-old Quirimit, whose Stage 1 win in the Asian category was splashed all over the major dailies here, was part of the tour's first massed finish topped by time trial champion Robert Hunter of Mapei-Quickstep.

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ■ Edwin M. Villanueva, Assistant Editor

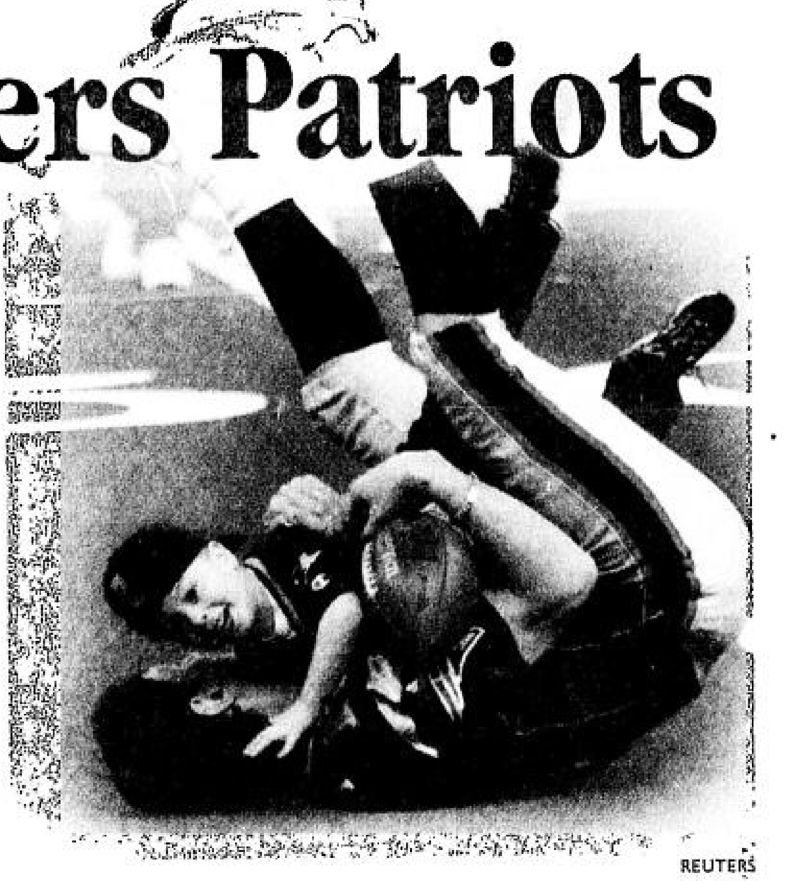
### SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL:** NFL Superbowl XXXVI – New England Patriots vs St. Louis Rams at 7 a.m. on Studio 23 and ESPN (r – 8:30 p.m.)

**BASKETBALL:** This Week in the NBA at 12:30 p.m. on CNN

# Super Bowl: Faulk bothers Patriots



REUTERS

NEW England quarterback Drew Bledsoe plays with his four-year-old son Stuart during the Patriots' practice at the Louisiana Superdome last Saturday.

**NEW ORLEANS—He may not wear a big, red 'S' on his chest, but given the reverence with which both sides in Sunday's (Monday in Manila) Super Bowl view, St. Louis Rams running back Marshall Faulk the New England Patriots might need a little kryptonite to help them.**

More powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall lineman in a single bound, Faulk is the closest thing the NFL has to Superman.

One need only listen to the coaches and players who will share the Superdome field with Faulk in Super Bowl XXXVI to understand the extent to which he is feared and revered.

"Really, watching him on tape or television doesn't do him justice. You almost have to see him in person to believe it," says Rams coach Mike Martz.

"He's the whole package. I don't know that there's ever been anybody like him but he's absolutely remarkable," added Martz, barely able to believe his good fortune at having Faulk on his team.

### McCartney song

Headlining the pre-game and halftime shows will be Sir Paul McCartney, who will perform his hit "Freedom" which he wrote following the terror attacks on New York and Washington last year.

"As a sports fan I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be involved in the Super Bowl," said McCartney.

Joining the former-Beatle in front of 72,000 spectators and estimated world wide television audience at 800 million, will be Irish super group U2, Mariah Carey, Barry Manilow and the Boston Pops.

New England coach Bill Belichick, considered a defensive genius by his NFL peers, has spent many sleepless nights trying to devise a game plan that might contain Faulk as he knows there is no stopping him.

"Marshall Faulk is probably as good a receiver as anyone in the league and a better running back than anyone," said Belichick. "Of all the players in the NFL, Faulk is the hardest to match up against. He can kill you in a lot of ways."

### Defensive coordinator

Belichick remembers well how he felt as the New York Jets defensive coordinator in 1999 when Faulk was traded by Indianapolis out of the AFC East Division to the Rams.

"It was one of the happiest days of my life," said Belichick in a rare attempt at humor, "not to have to play him twice a year."

Belichick doesn't mind playing him twice this year as the only way the teams could meet again after New England's loss to the Rams in November was to run into them in the Super Bowl.

"Marshall Faulk is a very complete player. I wish I had him on my team," said Lawyer Malloy, the experienced Patriots defensive back who will find himself chasing Faulk when the Rams sensation breaks through New England's front lines of defense.

"He can do everything. I think he could play quarterback if he wanted to," Malloy marvels.

Faulk, the 2000 NFL Most Valuable Player and a six-time Pro Bowl selection in an eight-year career, is quite simply the most versatile and talented player in the NFL.

It's no coincidence that the first season he joined St. Louis was the first year the Rams won the Super Bowl.

This past season, in leading the Rams to a league-best 14-2 record and a second Super Bowl appearance in three years, Faulk became the first player to gain at least 2,000 yards (running and receiving combined) for four seasons in a row, breaking tie with legendary former Chicago Bear Walter Payton. *Reuters*

## Isaac named new Blu head coach

**By Dennis Eroa**

FORMER Ginebra heartthrob Leo Isaac is now the new head coach of title-hungry Blu Detergent Kings.

In an exclusive interview yesterday, Blu team owner Dioceldo Sy, also the PBL board chair, said Isaac replaced ex-pro Tony de la Cerna, who lasted just one conference for the Detergent Kings.

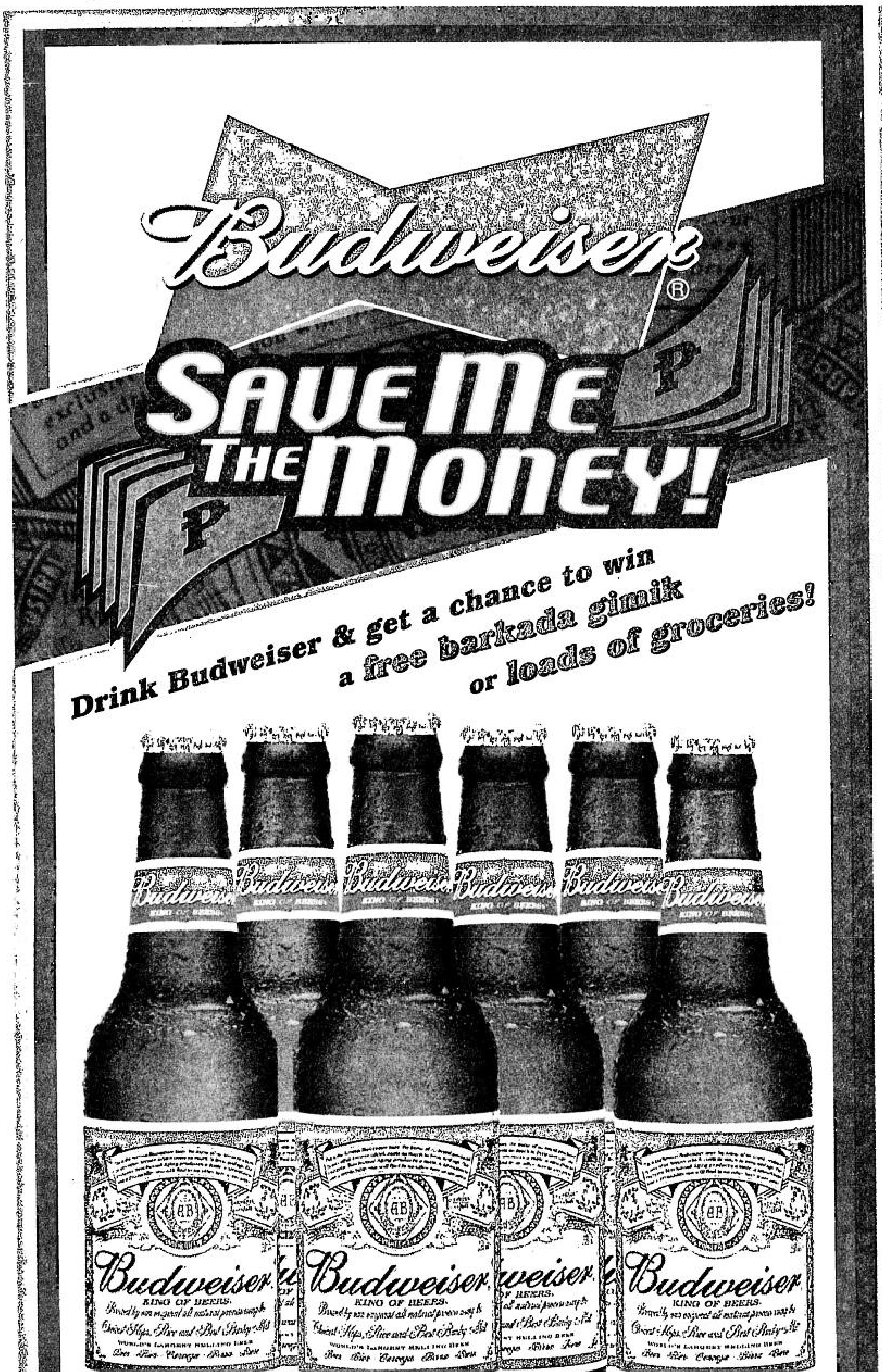
Former UP Maroon defender Patrick Aquino will remain as assistant coach.

"Leo has the tools to excel in the highly competitive PBL world," said Sy, who added that Isaac will start coaching Blu in the coming Chairman's Cup.

The bemoustached Isaac, who manned Ginebra's backcourt under coach and now senator Robert Jaworski, previously coached Ana Freezers and Montaña Jewels. He took a respite from coaching in the Challenge Cup, opting to concentrate in joining the PBL's roster of TV analysts.

Blu, one of the league's popular teams, is still looking for its first-ever crown since joining the league three years ago. The team became talk of the town when it paraded a squad composed of Fil-Am in the PBL Vis-Min Cup three years ago. Among those in the roster were Asi Taulava and Rob Duat.

Meanwhile, Welcoat's Yancy de Ocampo and Ren Ren Ritualo and Chester Tolomia of Shark are fighting it out for this conference's MVP award. The 6-foot-8 De Ocampo topped the statistical race, with Tolomia and Ritualo, placing second and third, respectively.



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METRO
Louie C. Camino, Editor

Get killers of 2 sisters–Legarda /A24
Bare eye: Eric Buhain victim pays back with caring tips /A24

# 'Split will help them politically'

## Joey Marquez wants Senate; wife Alma wants to be mayor

By Christian V. Esguerra

**THE BREAKUP of the marriage of Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez and actress Alma Moreno will work well for their separate political careers, according to the handlers of the mayor, who is said to be planning to run in the 2004 senatorial elections.**

The marital controversy, in fact, will even boost the popularity of Marquez, according to his spokesperson Mar Jimenez.

"There's nothing to worry about," Jimenez told reporters in a recent interview. "Everything's working well for both the mayor and his wife."

MORENO

MARQUEZ

Marquez and Moreno have been married for 12 years and have three children of their own and one adopted child.

Patricio Asoy, the mayor's executive assistant for legal affairs, said Moreno is herself aiming for the Parañaque mayoral seat that Marquez will vacate after serving his third term.

Moreno was already planning to succeed her husband, who is now serving his last term, even before the marriage turned sour, said Jimenez.

But the cause of the breakup, which had been reported as a "third party," might be the stumbling block to the estranged couple's separate political plans, according to Asoy and Jimenez.

Moreno was recently reported to be having an affair with a Cebuano deejay said to be younger than she.

"It's obviously a demolition job," Jimenez said of the reports about the younger man.

Asoy said Parañaque politicians who are also planning to run for mayor could have spread the rumor.

"As of now, we don't know the exact source of the rumor," Jimenez said. "But we'll find out soon."

Moreno has moved to another house after the split with Marquez.

Both Jimenez and Asoy still refused to confirm the couple's breakup, although Marquez himself had admitted it to the INQUIRER. Pictures of the actress, which used to be prominently displayed in the mayor's city hall office, are no longer there.

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# Kosovo 'survivor' gets hit by Malate's Ativan Gang

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

RETIRED American teacher Wanda Anne Ludlow, 56, of Texas, survived a tour in war-torn Kosovo, but not four thieves in Malate, Manila.

Describing herself as an adventurous tourist, Ludlow was not rattled by the robbery. She said she would continue touring the Philippines even after she lost her credit card, and $1,000 and P2,000 to two men and two women who befriended her while she was walking along Roxas Boulevard near the Grand Boulevard Hotel about 5 p.m. last Monday.

Police said the four suspects could be members of the "Ativan Gang," so called because they drug their victims with Ativan.

Ludlow, a retired English and Spanish teacher, was billeted at the Malate Pension House on M. Adriatico Street in Malate, said investigator PO3 Gordius Alumbro of the Western Police District theft and robbery section.

She told police three of the suspects approached her while she was walking and befriended her. She said they offered to show her historic places in Manila, like Quiapo, San Sebastian Church and the University of Sto. Tomas, and she agreed.

While they were on board a jeepney bound for Quiapo, Ludlow said a man joined them. One of the women introduced the man as her brother-in-law, Ludlow said.

She said they offered her candy, which was apparently laced with drugs. But she said the drugs apparently did not hit her immediately and they were able to go to Quiapo Church, San Sebastian Church and UST.

She said the four then offered to take her to their house somewhere in Sampaloc for some snacks. They boarded a pedicab and entered an alley, she said. They reached a shanty in a slum in Sampaloc and had a meal of rice and fish, she said.

She said they also gave her softdrinks and beer to drink. She could not remember what happened after that, she told police.

She said the group took her cash and credit card but left her with $300 after she passed out. Police said Ativan gangs have been known to leave their victims some money.

Ludlow said the group put her in a cab which brought her to the Malate Pension House. She realized only later that she had been robbed, she said.

She described one woman as slim and about 35 years old, and the other woman as chubby and about 54. One of the men was stocky, about 21 and about 5-foot-5 tall, she said. The other man was skinny and about 35, she said.

Ludlow said she was also held up when she was a tourist in India.

She said her experience in Manila did not frighten her and she found most Filipinos "too friendly."

After reporting the robbery, she flew to Mindoro to scuba dive, police said.

# Get killers of 2 sisters – Legarda

SENATE majority leader Loren Legarda called on police to bring to justice the killers of the two Baylon sisters who were raped and stabbed dead in their home in Antipolo City last Friday.

"No effort must be spared to bring the perpetrators of these despicable acts to swift justice," Legarda said. "The full force of the law must be brought to bear on them."

Agnes Baylon, 26, a medical technology graduate of Centro Escolar University, and her sister Jasmin, 22, a ticketing employee of Cebu Pacific Inc., were found dead in their home in Sitio Dalig.

Jasmin had 16 stab wounds, Agnes had 12.

"People are no longer safe in their homes these days," Legarda said in a statement. "And that is largely because of the unchecked proliferation of illicit drugs." The senator is also an official of the Citizens' Drug Watch Foundation.

Legarda also pushed for the full development of DNA testing as a tool for gathering criminal evidence, particularly in cases of rape with homicide.

"The authorities must make full use of the wonders of DNA testing in the science of gathering criminal evidence," she said.

"DNA testing may not be necessary in rape cases where the victims survive and can positively identify their attackers. However, in cases where victims are killed and positive identification is left to third party-witnesses or no witnesses at all, DNA evidence could prove useful, if not crucially important."

The senator said the advent of DNA testing has also underscored the need for agents of the law to be fully trained in the proper handling of physical evidence obtained from crime scenes.

She said law officers should be adequately trained in detecting, handling and preserving physical evidence that could later be used in DNA testing.

# Garcia heirs sue exec over condo contract

**By Agnes E. Donato**

THE HEIRS of the late former President Carlos P. Garcia have sued for estafa an executive of a construction firm with whom they entered into a joint venture agreement for the development of a condominium complex in Quezon City.

Fernando Campos, Garcia's son-in-law and president of Leonila Realty and Development Corp. (LDRC), filed estafa charges against Antonio Tan, executive vice president for construction of the Megaworld Properties and Holdings Inc.

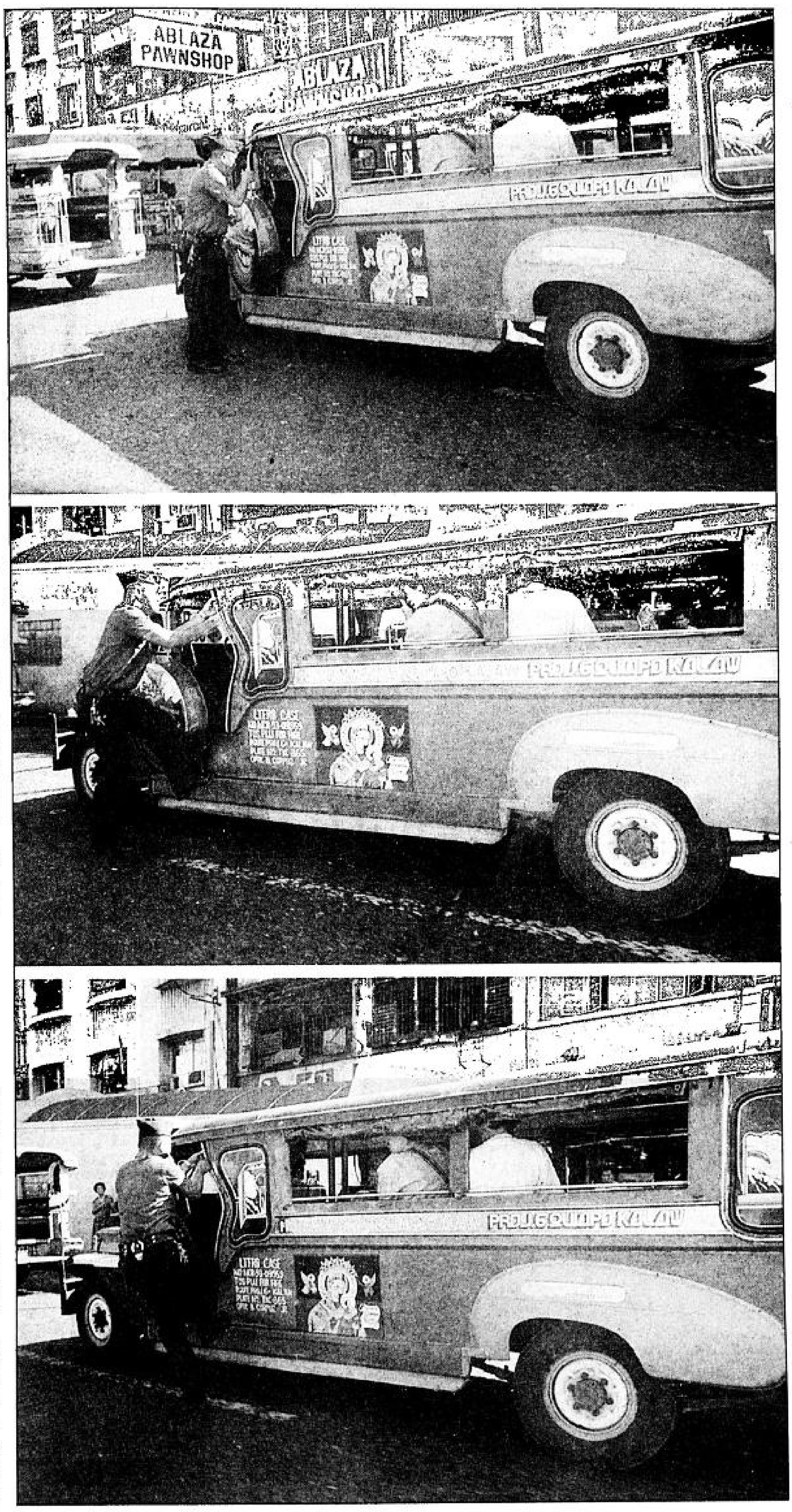
In his complaint-affidavit, Campos accused Tan of "maliciously (altering) the quality and value" of the structures and properties, which were stipulated in the joint venture agreement. He also demanded payment of P25 million for damages from Megaworld.

Records say that LDRC entered into a memorandum of agreement with Megaworld in 1997 to develop El Jardin del Presidente, a residential commercial condo complex at the corner of Bohol Avenue and Albano Street in Quezon City. A six-story building called the President Garcia Mansion is also located in the complex.

The parties agreed upon an initial 70-30 percent sharing in favor of Megaworld. But due to subsequent developments, LRDC's share was reduced to 25.57 percent in 1998, the records say.

Disagreement between the two parties arose when Megaworld built mezzanines in the commercial units assigned to LDRC. The Quezon City government later ordered the mezzanines removed after they were found violating the minimum height requirement of the National Building Code.

To offset the LDRC's losses estimated at P27 million, Megaworld undertook the construction of an annex belonging to LDRC. But during construction, the LDRC protested the P20 million outlay as "excessive."



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

**GOOD COP, ANGRY COP**

**An unidentified policeman from the Western Police District Station 3 in Quiapo, Manila, said to be a rookie, shows older and more experienced cops how a street beat is covered. Yesterday, he stopped a jeepney for picking up passengers at a no-loading, no-unloading zone in front of the Quiapo Church. He clung to the jeep when the driver refused to yield his license and started to move on. He was enraged and jumped onto the jeep when the driver offered him a P100-bribe. He hauled the driver to the police station.**

# Brother's killer also kills victim's child

ROLANDO B. Villorente, 27, suspected of killing his older brother Jose six months ago, also killed Jose's daughter Judith before dawn yesterday in Tondo, Manila, police said.

Rolando stabbed his niece, a cigarette vendor, in the back, said detective Edgardo E. Ko of the Western Police District homicide section.

Ko said Rolando even promised during Jose's wake that he would wipe out his brother's family. He had been on the run after a warrant was issued for his arrest, the detective added.

"He killed (Judith) in the same place and at the same hour that Jose was killed," Ko said.

Judith was selling cigarettes at the corner of Claro M. Recto Avenue and Dagupan Street in Tondo when her uncle struck at 5:45 a.m., Ko said.

Rolando was carrying an umbrella when he came from behind his niece. The umbrella concealed a knife, Ko said.

***Philip C. Tubeza***

# NBI seeks help of 2 phone firms

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has asked cellular phone firms Globe and Smart to cooperate in solving the killing of Sen. Blas Ople's son-in-law Arthur Meliton San Jose last Jan. 24 in a Legazpi City hotel.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said his men asked the telecom giants to provide the bureau with the record of calls made to the cell phone of the victim.

"We want to know who called him up and arranged to meet him," Wycoco said. "We want to know who he was to meet."

He earlier said a series of cell phone conversations might lead to the solution of the case.

***Philip C. Tubeza***

# NIH Week

ARE medical missions useful? Are there herbal drugs for contraception? What is the status of genetically modified organisms? How many doctors and nurses do we really need?

These health-related questions will be addressed during the First National Institutes of Health Research Forum to be held at the UP College of Nursing Auditorium, Pedro Gil, Ermita, Manila on Feb. 6 at 9 a.m. The forum is part of the weeklong celebration of Foundation Week of the National Institutes of Health.

The NIH serves as the coordinating and integrating body of health research groups in the university and external agencies and organizations. Its executive director is Dr. Mario R. Festin, TOYM awardee in 1998 and incumbent UP Manila vice chancellor for research. For more information, call 526-4266 or emailnih@mail.upm.edu. ph.

# Eric Buhain victim pays back with caring tips

**BARE EYE**

***Recah Trinidad***

IN 1993, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, still a lean national swimmer, led an athletes' protest to demand the resignation of then PSC boss Aparicio Mequi. Last month, after Buhain's appointment was confirmed by Malacañang, Dr. Mequi received a text message asking him to take revenge on the man who had helped oust him: "Doc *makakaganti ka na kay* Buhain."

No, Mequi protested. Revenge was farthest from his mind.

"I want to protect the investments I made when I joined Fr. Robert Reyes and the Athletes and Coaches Association of the Philippines in their prayer rallies at Mendiola to call for leadership changes in the PSC," Mequi explained in a letter to this reporter.

By changes, Mequi said he did not mean only new faces in the PSC hierarchy.

He's instead demanding a firm, honest, no-nonsense approach to national sports development.

To help accomplish this, Mequi has offered some insights which he believes could be of value to Buhain in his turn at the "hot seat."

Here are five timely pointers from Dr. Mequi, president of the Philippine Association of Physical Educators:

1. Treat your critics as potential allies. Don't ban them. Only tyrants do that and history is replete with accounts of people in power who ban their critics and end up being banned themselves. However, you must demand from your critics proofs to validate their complaints. They must be able to present better alternatives; otherwise, they deserve to be ignored.

2. Faster, Higher, Stronger! This is the Olympic motto that defines the performance of our athletes in the national pool. And the parameters you will find useful in exacting a performance contract from members of ACAP and the other athletes. If they can't run or swim faster, are unable to jump higher/farther, and do not surpass their personal records during their training, then they must be dropped from the pool. The PSC is not a social agency created to sustain the daily subsistence of athletes who do not possess the talent required for international competitions.

3. "We tried our best." This is the excuse that NSA officials use in justifying junkets and poor performances of their athletic delegation. Trying one's best is the excuse of the mediocre. Everyone is expected to try his best. What are performance standards for if these are measured in such an abstract term as "tried our best"? Is there anyone who will claim that "we tried our worst"?

Thus, you must demand from NSAs, in exchange for PSC support, that performance standards be set and if they fail to achieve this, then the government can refuse to provide them assistance. Put a stop to athletic delegations that go out to "try their best" because in the final medal tally, there is no category for these characters.

4. Corollary to Nos. 2 and 3 above is the adage which can very well serve as a guideline in dealing with athletes and the NSAs: "Training without improvement is meaningless." Like the wisdom implied in old clichés, there is no need to elaborate.

5. In the table of elements, the symbol for gold is Au and the one for silver is Ag. There is a similarity between the two as far as their symbols are concerned. However, this should not be used to justify the labeling of a silver medal as a "near gold" because, in the standard medal tally, this categorization is not used. To do so is as deceitful as passing off a brick as a bar of gold.

However, "all that glitters is not necessarily a gold medal." Of the 75 million Filipinos, only about 1 percent, or about 750,000, have the potential to become outstanding athletes. Investing the bulk of PSC funds in a program devoted to this minority of the population would be perpetuating the big gap between the rich and the poor. Most valuable opportunities for participation in sports are enjoyed by the rich and by those who can afford to join sports clubs.

Proof of this is the present crop of athletes participating in the Palarong Pambansa. Most participants come from the private schools. Ironically, the Palaro is funded out of public funds. But public school children, because of poor physical education and school intramural programs, are deprived of the opportunity to compete in sports.

You must do something about this or your term in the PSC would be labeled "elitist." There is gold in mass-based sport.

**MTRCB** RATING **PG-13** Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

FROM THE PRODUCER OF "ENEMY OF THE STATE" AND THE DIRECTOR OF "GLADIATOR"

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-- Larry King, CNN

From Ridley Scott, acclaimed director of GLADIATOR and Jerry Bruckheimer, producer of PEARL HARBOR comes a war epic voted by *Time Magazine* as one of the best films of the year.

The all-star cast includes the brightest names in young Hollywood: Josh Hartnett of PEARL HARBOR, Ewan McGregor of MOULIN ROUGE and Orlando Bloom, the well-loved Legolas in LORD OF THE RINGS.

Columbia Pictures' BLACK HAWK DOWN is the true story of elite American soldiers on a mission to stop a ruthless Somalian warlord in 1993.

Don't miss this must-see movie event, described by CNN's Larry King as "the best war movie I've ever seen."

**NOW SHOWING**

---

# MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

### Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS) LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS) HEART IN ATLANTIS
4 GOLD (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 GOLD (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
8 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 FINAL ANSWER

### Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
6 (DTS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
Golden Pearl THX

### Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 FINAL ANSWER
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

### METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285

1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2 HEART IN ATLANTIC
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

### PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN

### Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 WALANG IWANAN

### FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

### Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
A ISANG PANAGINIP

### Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

## GOTESCO CINEMA

### City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) ISANG PANAGINIP
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 HEART IN ATLANTIS
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 (DOLBY) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

### Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 ISANG PANAGINIP

### Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (SDDS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
6 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 (DTS) ISANG PANAGINIP
8 BUKO PANDAN
9 BEHIND ENEMY LINES

### Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 (DOLBY) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8 BEHIND ENEMY LINES

### Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN

### Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 ISANG PANAGINIP

### Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 ISANG PANAGINIP

### Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson HUBO
Lords TALK DIRTY TO ME
Jennet RESERVE

### MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

### Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 ISANG PANAGINIP

### Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
### SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 HEART IN ATLANTIC
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 FINAL ANSWER

### New Divisoria Mall
### DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 FINAL ANSWER

### Baclaran LRT
### LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY) RESERVE
2 RESERVE

### Berma
tel 879.2029

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP

## CINEMA 2000

### Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS) BLACK HAWK DOWN

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS) MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 FINAL ANSWER

### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DTS) ISANG PANAGINIP
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

### Cinema 2000 MovieTown
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1 THE OTHERS
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DOLBY) ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS) MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) FINAL ANSWER
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 (DTS) BLACK HAWK DOWN

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 (DTS) THE OTHERS
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 FINAL ANSWER

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

### Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
2 FINAL ANSWER
3 BURLESK KING

### Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 THE OTHERS
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) ISANG PANAGINIP
2 (DTS) MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 BUKO PANDAN
2 ON THE LINE
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (DTS ES) FINAL ANSWER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

THX

### GALLERIA
632-0115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 278

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 HEART IN ATLANTIS
7 LORD OF THE RINGS
8 FINAL ANSWER
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 THE OTHERS

### ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 HEART IN ATLANTIS
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

### METRO EAST
632-0115-16 / 633-7641

1 HEART IN ATLANTIS
BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 THE OTHERS
OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 FINAL ANSWER

### NOVALICHES
936-3229 TO 31

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 HEART IN ATLANTIS
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
7 FINAL ANSWER
8 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### IMUS
(046) 471-0100

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 HEART IN ATLANTIS
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 FINAL ANSWER
6 ISANG PANAGINIP

### BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 ZOOLANDER
4 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5 IRON LADIES
6 WALANG IWANAN

### ILOILO
(033) 330-8077 / 8079

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
4 BURLESK KING
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

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# THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101 | |
|---|---|
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | OCEAN'S ELEVEN |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | BLACK HAWK DOWN |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | HEARTS IN ATLANTIS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | BLACK HAWK DOWN |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | |
| NEW FRONTIER | |
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SISID / TAILS OF EROTIKA |
| ODEON | BLACK HAWK DOWN |
| ODEON-2 | MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA |
| ROBEN | KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP |
| TANDEM-1 | SEX MEDUSA |
| TANDEM-2 | SEX EDUCATION |
| TIMES | DON'T SAY A WORD / GHOST FROM MARS |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| QUEZON-1 | MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA |
| REMAR | BLACK HAWK DOWN |
| REMAR-2 | MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP |
| B | BLACK HAWK DOWN |
| C | MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | HEARTS IN ATLANTIS |
| CINEMA-2 | BLACK HAWK DOWN |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | BUKO PANDAN |
| CINEMA-2 | MAHAL KITA: FINAL ANSWER |
| CINEMA-3 | KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | BLACK HAWK DOWN |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | LORD OF THE RINGS |
| CINEMA-6 | THE OTHERS |
| CINEMA-7 | BEHIND ENEMY LINES |
| CINEMA-8 | AMERICAN ADOBO |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | OCEAN'S ELEVEN |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | HEARTS IN ATLANTIS |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | BLACK HAWKDOWN |
| CINEMA-12 | DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE |
| CINEMA-14 | KUNG IKAW AY 1 PANAGINIP |
| CINEMA-15 | MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED |
| CINEMA-3 | CLOSED |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | OCEAN'S ELEVEN |
| CINEMA-2 | BLACK HAWK DOWN |
| CINEMA-3 | DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE |
| CINEMA-4 | OCEAN'S ELEVEN |
| CINEMA-5 | HEARTS IN ATLANTIS |
| CINEMA-6 | BLACK HAWK DOWN |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PIÑAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARAÑAQUE) | |
| CINEMA-1 | ALIPIN NG TUKSO |
| CINEMA-2 | THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 | ALAMID |

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# SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

### SM CITY BACOOR
4173808

1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 FINAL ANSWER
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
8 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

### SM CENTERPOINT
7149322 -7161416

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 THE OTHERS
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
5 BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 FINAL ANSWER
7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 AMERICAN ADOBO

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3 THE OTHERS
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 FINAL ANSWER
6 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
7 BLACK HAWK DOWN
8 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11 AMERICAN ADOBO
12 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 THE OTHERS
8 AMERICAN ADOBO
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 LORD OF THE RINGS
11 FINAL ANSWER
12 ISANG PANAGINIP

### SM MEGAMALL
6331091 • 6329401

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 BLACK HAWKDOWN
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7 THE OTHERS
8 AMERICAN ADOBO
9 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
10 ISANG PANAGINIP
11 FINAL ANSWER
12 LORD OF THE RINGS

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 AMERICAN ADOBO
2 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 BEHIND ENEMY LINES
10 LOR OF THE RINGS
11 THE OTHERS
12 BLACK HAWK DOWN

### SM SOUTHMALL
8068098 • 8066792

1 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
2 THE OTHERS
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 AMERICAN ADOBO
6 LORD OF THE RINGS
7 ISANG PANAGINIP
8 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9 FINAL ANSWER
10 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 LORD OF THE RINGS
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 ZOOLANDER
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 BUKO PANDAN
7 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 BUKO PANDAN
2 CLOSED
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 ISANG PANAGINIP
6 LORD OF THE RINGS
7 CLOSED
8 BURLESK KING

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 SUMMER CATCH
3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 FINAL ANSWER
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 ISANG PANAGINIP

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### SM CITY TUTUBAN
2514302

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 FINAL ANSWER
4 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA

### SM CITY DAVAO
2874004

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 LORD OF THE RINGS
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 AMERICAN AOBO
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

### SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2
SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

# 'WW2BAM' coming back on Sunday

"WHO Wants to be a Millionaire," the country's favorite game show, will be back on the air on Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. over IBC-13.

The Viva-TV production of WW2BAM took its annual break after its top-rating celebrity episode on Christmas Day. Playing for charity in that episode were megastar Sharon Cuneta who won P1 million, comedienne Rufa Mae Quinto who won P300,000, and Sen. Juan Flavier, who earned P200,000.

In the first season of 2002, WW2BAM will be featuring special celebrity editions.

Playing for their favorite charities on Feb. 10 are Tonton Gutierrez and Glydel Mercado, Johnny Revilla and Janet Basco, Emil Buencamino and Giselle Sanchez, Ricardo Cepeda and Snooky Serna, and Dingdong Avanzado and Jessa Zaragoza.

On Feb. 14, the show will feature Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama, Tito Molina and Rosanna Roces, and Bernard Palanca and Rica Peralejo.

On Feb. 15, guests will be EJ and Tess Litton, Lance Gokongwei and wife Mary Joyce, Dennis Valdes and Tessa Prieto-Valdes.

To play on Feb. 16 will be Niño Muhlach and wife Edith, Ian Veneracion and wife Pam, Earl Ignacio and Cookie Chua, Alex Alvarez and Maritoni Fernandez, Tirso Cruz and wife Lyn.

Hosted by Christopher de Leon, WW2BAM celebrated its first anniversary on the air on Nov. 13.

The biggest winner so far, with a million pesos each, have been Sharon Cuneta and Amelita Lopez-Forbes.

WW2BAM has a grand prize of P2 million, but contestants who come from all over the Philippines are provided with free transportation, rooms at the Grand Boulevard Hotel for one night and other goodies.

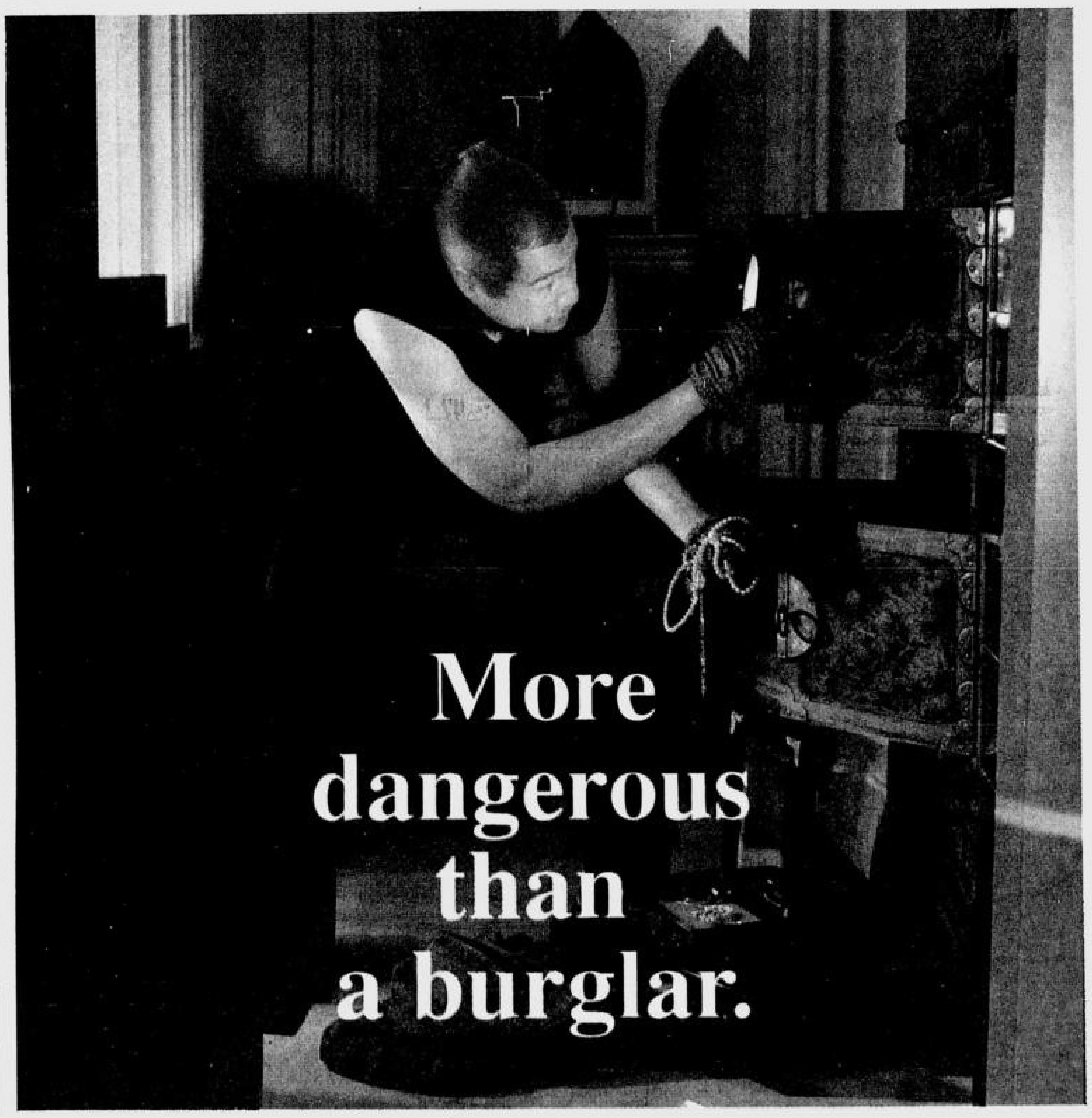
Contestants must be Filipino citizens of legal age. They can simply dial PLDT Premium Phone Service number 1-908-1000-000.

Calls are charged P10 per minute and charging starts once the interactive voice response system is activated. Access to this number is open to PLDT and Bayantel landlines, Smart and Talk & Text.

WW2BAM airs at 9 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The show is sponsored by PLDT, Talk & Text, Bayantel, Banco de Oro, Grand Boulevard Hotel and Sari Sari, which provides the wardrobe of Christopher de Leon.

**HOST** with the most, Christopher de Leon, will introduce celebrity editions in the show's first season this year.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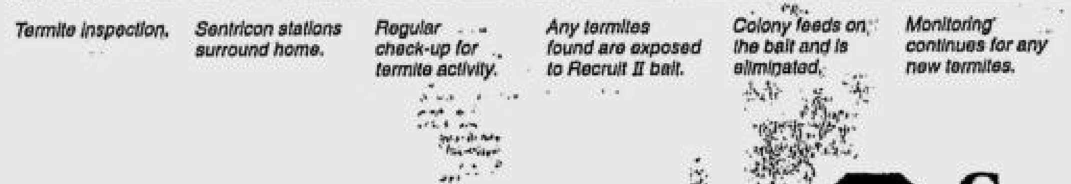

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**12-0-1 members** (clockwise from foreground) Albert, Gary, Jon, Don and Dodie.

# Boy band for all the days of the year

DURING a weekend night-out in a karaoke, three friends started talking about forming an all-male singing group. That idea remained an idea until one of them announced they had been invited to perform in a wedding reception at The Manila Hotel.

The three friends were excited, flabbergasted and hesitant all at the same time, but they finally formed a group for the occasion. One of them contacted his other friends, former students of The Center for Pop Music Philippines (CPMP).

On Dec. 1, 1999, two weeks before its debut performance in the wedding reception, the group was formed and they called it DcMbr 1st.

The response to their wedding reception performance was apparently encouraging because the boys in the band decided to carry on.

In November 2000, AG Talent Development and Management took the boy band under its wing and soon was signing a contract for them with Harmony Music, a division of Alpha Records.

The contract required, among other things, that they give themselves a more catchy, easier to say name, 12-0-1 (Twelve-O-One).

By September 2001, the band had released its first album, also called 12-0-1. It contained mostly original songs, with the group members collaborating on the music and lyrics. *"Nag-iisang Bituin"* was the carrier single. When 12-0-1 performs Friday and Sunday nights at Jhoker in Cubao, Quezon City, as well as in other places in the country, it is not unusual for strangers in the audience, apparently devoted to 12-0-1, to sing the song with the band.

12-0-1 is composed of Albert, Gary, Jon, Dodie and Don, all professionals in their respective fields, all lookers and all singers. Their live performances, backed by the Sakada band, are strong on pop, ballads, a cappella, R&B, dance and alternative music.

Albert Henoguin, one of the original three on that weekend night-out and the one who called his friends from the CPMP, is considered the most aggressive of the band members. A registered medical technologist, he became an executive assistant and associate producer in a line production firm for TV and films. He is, according to the 12-0-1 file, "very generous," including in giving praise and compliments.

Gary Garcia has the highest vocal range in the group and admits the influences of Gary V, Westlife and N'Sync. A competitive and independent guy who lives in his own pad, Gary was a former legislative staff member of Congress.

Even the other guys in the band admit that Jonathan Perez is brimming with musical talent. He plays musical instruments, composes and is the group's main arranger.

Jon is a physical therapist by profession who also does vocal coaching on the side.

The rest of the band pays him the highest compliment when they say he is "the nicest" member, as well as its "best" singer.

Dodie Victor had been singing with a band as early as high school, as well as in the church choir in his Laguna hometown.

A product of Center for Pop Music Philippines, Dodie, one of the band's song writers, also has a theater background.

The boyish Don Erwin Arque is always a big crowd favorite during 12-0-1 performances.

Don is also a young man of diverse interests, including architecture, literature, painting, sculpture, theater and, of course, music. Like Jon and Dodie, he writes and composes songs.

To their growing horde of fans, the members of 12-0-1 are boys next door, except that next door is always throbbing with their music.

They're also young men that young women would love to bring home to mama. Chances are, mama would soon be rocking to their music, too.

# Being gay no longer a liability for BB as actor

**SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**

*Leah Salterio*

ACTOR **Bernardo Bernardo** makes it a point to do a play at least once a year. "So I won't be rusty," he says.

Last year, Bernie was in the Dulaang UP production of "Othello." This year, he starts his theater acting venture early with the comedy musical, "Promises, Promises," to be staged by **Bart Guingona**'s Actor's Actor Inc.

"Theater brings back discipline to me," Bernie says. "It's not the most profitable undertaking but I enjoy it."

He remembers that when he returned from the US, he wanted to become a dramatic actor. "At that time, I envied **Boyet (de Leon)** who won best actor for his first movie. There I was, with credentials from American schools, and I had no job.

"I asked **Nestor Torre** why and he told me, 'Because you're gay.' That was the kind of encouragement I got from friends then," he adds with a smile.

Bernie, who is also seen regularly on the ABS-CBN sitcom, "Home Along da Riles," is delighted to be doing one of the lead roles in "Promises, Promises." He plays Dr. Dreyfuss and costars with the likes of **Rachel Alejandro, Michael Williams** and **Lee Robin Salazar. Tintin Arnaldo** alternates with Rachel as the cafeteria girl Fran.

"Promises, Promises" is a musical comedy based on the **Jack Lemmon-Shirley Maclaine** film, "The Apartment," directed by **Billy Wilder**. The musical is a collaboration of composer **Burt Bacharach**, lyricist **Hal David** and playwright **Neil Simon**.

A live orchestra led by **Bond Samson** and the Ugoy-Ugoy Band will interpret Bacharach's beautiful music, which includes such classics as "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," "Whoever Your Are, I Love You," "Knowing When To Love" and the title song.

"Thirty years ago, I was supposed to play **Chuck Baxter**, now the role being played by **Michael Williams**, in a production of **Julie Borromeo**, but the deal didn't materialize," Bernie says. "Now I'm glad to be a part of this new production."

Of Actor's Actor, he says: "It is one of the most fearless theater groups in the country. One of their productions, 'Art,' was one of the best I've seen in years."

BERNARDO. Not "rusty."

"Promises, Promises" also features costumes by designer **Rajo Laurel,** who once played Bernie's son in the Repertory Philippines production of "The King and I."

Bernie notes the public's growing appreciation of the theater. "The market is getting bigger. More sponsors are starting to support theater now.

"I'd like to see the day when theater will become a habit for Filipinos, like in London or New York. Tanghalang Pilipino stayed alive because of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. I believe that if you do something interesting enough, people will come."

### Kiko vs piracy

SEN. **Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan** does not have any show biz background, unlike other senators like **Tito Sotto, Noli de Castro, Loren Legarda** or **Ramon Revilla**. But his wife is megastar **Sharon Cuneta,** talent manager **Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano** is his sister, pop idol **Gary Valenciano** is his brother-in-law and actress **Maricel Laxa** is his sister-in-law.

Pangilinan recently filed Senate Bill No. 1738, the Entertainment Media Anti-Piracy Act, which seeks to establish an anti-piracy body by converting the Video Regulatory Board into the Entertainment Media Regulatory and Anti-Piracy Board.

The proposed body will have the exclusive power to regulate the import, export, manufacture, reproduction, distribution, sale, lease and disposition of entertainment media materials.

The proposed anti-piracy board will be the lead government agency in the fight against media piracy.

"The entertainment industry has been long battered by a series of tax increases and unfair competition from foreign film companies," Pangilinan said in a statement. "The least the government can do is protect the industry and help create an atmosphere that would encourage investment, spur healthy competition and consequently improve the quality of local films."

Pangilinan was among the lawmakers who strongly opposed the imposition of a 20-percent across-the-board withholding tax on entertainers.

# Ogie and Regine has a new one

SINGER-COMPOSER Ogie Alcasid and songbird Regine Velasquez have a new song, "Hanggang Ngayon," as well as a new music video of the song, which is from the movie "Ikaw Lamang, Hanggang Ngayon."

Composed by Ogie himself, the song is predicted to follow the huge success of "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" and "Pangako." It marks the first time Ogie and Regine did a duet, which is included in Ogie's Viva Records album, "A Better Man."

Ogie goes on a mall tour to promote his new album. On Feb. 8 he will be in Robinson's Bacolod, and on Feb. 9 in Robinson's Iloilo. Shows start at 4 p.m.

"A Better Man" the album also includes the smash hit, "Ikaw Sana" as well as "Sa Puso Ko" (theme song of "Mahal Kita: Final Answer"), "I'll be Yours Forever" and "One," with guest vocals by Lani Misalucha, Jaya and Regine Velasquez.

FIRST TIME. Regine and Ogie

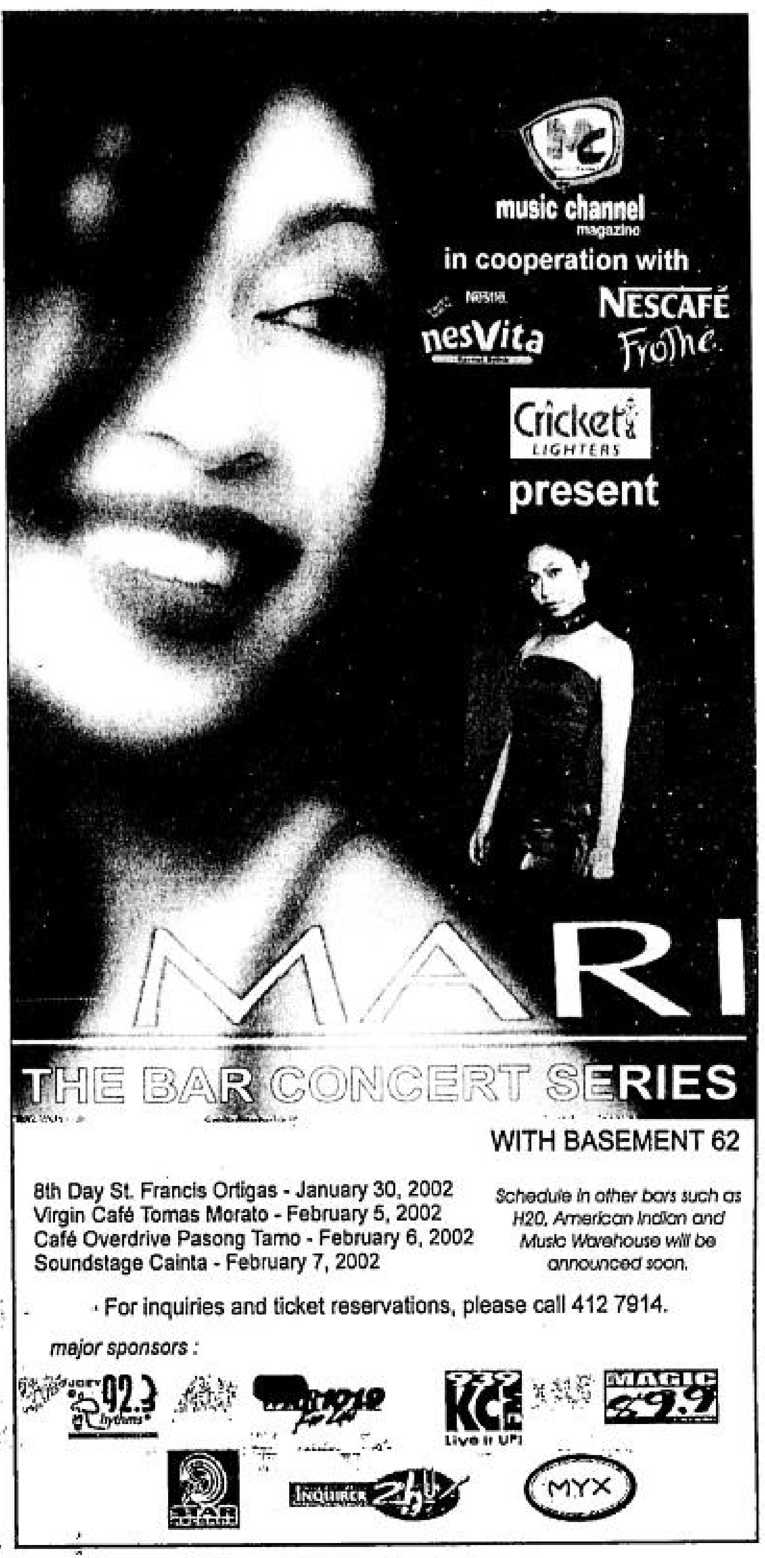
# Jolina performs in Riverbanks Center concert

JOLINA Magdangal will have a benefit concert, "Jolina's Luv Alert," on Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Riverbanks Center in Marikina City.

The concert is a joint project of the Voice Academy of the Philippines (VAP) and Riverbanks Center for the benefit of Marikina Bantay Bayan and the Youth Outreach Program for Anti-Drug Abuse (Yopada) under the office of Marikina Vice Mayor Marion Andres.

The concert will also feature VAP talents who are students of the Marikina Pathfinder School, CCP Glee Club, and surprise guests. Tickets for P120 are available at the Riverbanks Bayad Center.

For details, call 934-1789 or 947-7617.



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*Schedule in other bars such as H20, American Indian and Music Warehouse will be announced soon.*

For inquiries and ticket reservations, please call 412 7914.

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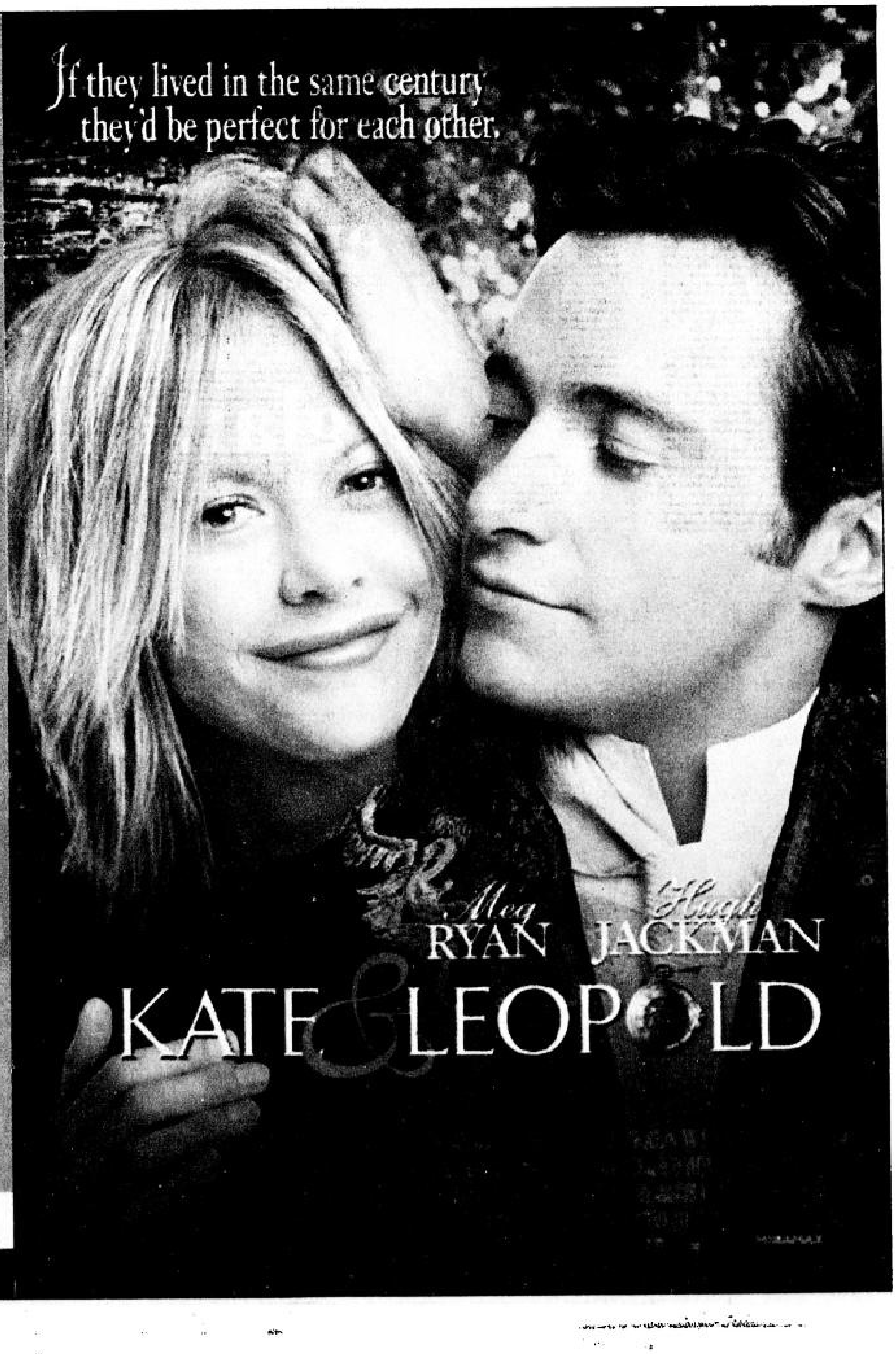
REGULAR SHOWING ON FEBRUARY 6



If they lived in the same century
they'd be perfect for each other.
Meg RYAN
Hugh JACKMAN
KATE & LEOPOLD

NATURAL

## Natural in Manila

NATURAL, the new teen sensation from boy band starmaker and impresario Lou Pearlman, will be in Manila Feb. 5. On that first day, the band will be at SM Megamall at 4 p.m., Glorietta at 6:30 p.m., and Tower Records Glorietta at 8 p.m. On Feb. 6, they will be at Robinsons Manila at 4 p.m. and SM Manila at 6:30 p.m.

On Feb. 7, Natural will be at Odyssey Records Galleria. On Feb. 8, they will be at the Assumption College Fair at 5 p.m., and on Feb. 9 at 9 p.m., they will perform at Streetlife in Glorietta IV, Makati City. Antoinette Taus will be the front act.

Natural is composed of Ben Bledsoe, "Jo" Josh Horn, Michael Johnson, Patrick King Jr. and Marc Terenzi, whose ages range from 19 to 23 years old. They are under Pearlman's Trans Continental Records, the same company that launched the careers of Backstreet Boys, N'Sync, LFO, and C-Note, among others.

For inquiries, call 817-5926, 817-5811 loc. 18, or fax 817-5864.

## Jazzing up Feb. 14

WHILE candies, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones on Feb. 14, let's not forget the basics—closeness, joy, intimacy and love. It is a time to let your loved ones know just how much you care for them.

City Lite 88.3, Manila's smooth jazz station, has something beautiful for all those who look forward to Feb. 14 as a night of love: the station's annual Valentine promo, "A Jazzy Valentine Rendezvous."

City Lite 88.3 transforms the Harana Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Manila to a '50s setting. The promo's winning couples will be treated to a sumptuous dinner, with smooth jazz love songs performed by session artists, Lynn Sherman and the Parliament Syndicate. The couples will also take home gifts from City Lite 88.3 sponsors.

All you have to do is fax to 631-7559 your answers to a promo question which will be aired daily on City Lite 88.3, along with your complete name, address and telephone number. The most creative participants get a pair of invites to the special Valentine dinner, plus gifts.

## A visit from Vandolph . . .

(From page A29)

pecially when I needed it most. His sense of humor always managed to lift my spirits.

It broke my heart to see his once mischievous, twinkling eyes so pained. They were now the eyes of a man suffering tremendously. He was trying to be brave, but his eyes failed to conceal what I can best describe as unbearable sorrow.

I realized that although the body does heal in time, emotional and psychological trauma will take a lifetime to overcome. I believe Vandolph survived because he has an important mission to fulfill. I also believe that the Almighty gave him an abundance of grace because he will be used as an instrument of much good.

I told him Ishi must love him so much because she's now his angel up in heaven looking after him, and helping him throughout his difficult physical rehabilitation.

I pray that a friend as genuinely caring, kind-hearted and generous as Vandolph will also be given the gift of hope. And that he will have enough faith to cope with all the unexplainable pain his young heart may carry for the rest of his life.

## Learning . . .

(From page A29)

dards are the rule for making decisions on what young viewers should or should not see on the movie screen, then the procedure should be made more democratic . . .

"Civic and religious leaders may have good intentions, but they may not be speaking for the majority of Filipinos. The composition of the MTRCB should be made more representative than it is at present."

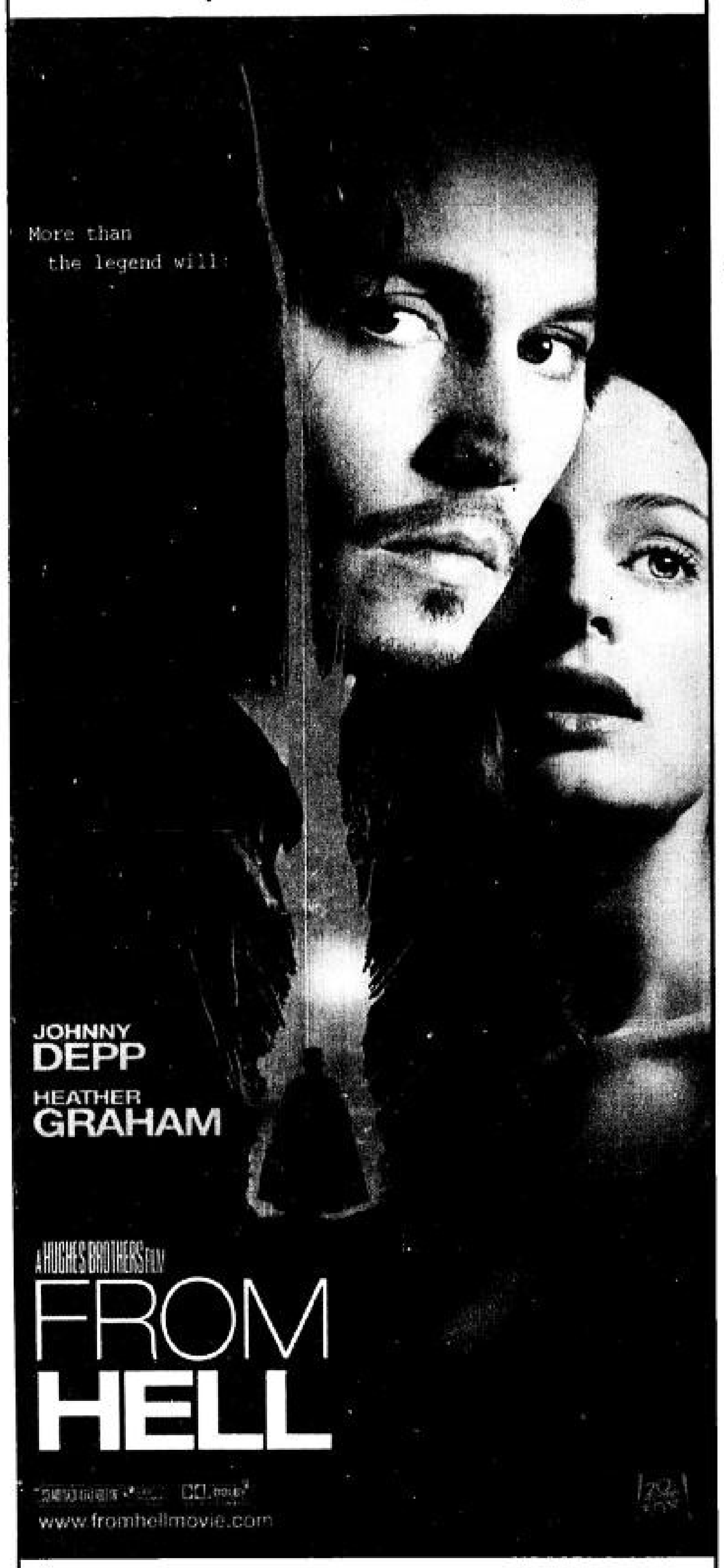
### Religious album

ON Tuesday, Feb. 5, the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament is launching the religious music album, "His Banquet: Source, Center, Summit of Our Lives," at 20 Sunnyside Drive, New Manila, Q.C.

The album features the voices of the priests and brothers of the Sacramentino Choir, with **Tin Arnaldo** as guest artist. The Congregation acknowledges the power of the arts, media and entertainment in promoting the message of God's love in the Eucharist, hence its decision to come up with its first music album.

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Special thanks to: RX 93.1

OPENS FEBRUARY 6 !



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| 2 BLACK HAWK DOWN<br>in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND | 2 BLACK HAWK DOWN<br>in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND | 6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN<br>in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND | 2 BLACK HAWK DOWN<br>in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND | 2 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE<br>in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND |
| 3 KAHIT IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP<br>in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND | 3 BLACK HAWK DOWN THX<br>in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND | 7 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE<br>in DTS DIGITAL SOUND | 3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN<br>in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND | 3 OCEAN'S ELEVEN<br>in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |
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| | | | | 5 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS<br>in DTS DIGITAL SOUND |

The Ayala Mall Events

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI

PHOTOWORLD MANILA 2002

VALENTINES DAY AT AYALA CENTER

Watch out for following Valentines shows:

- Shows at the Glorietta 4 Park

Feb. 11 / 6 pm
Vina Morales and Ana Fegi

Feb. 12 / 6 pm
Side A

- Shows at Greenbelt 2

Feb. 14
Ogie Alcasid

Feb. 15
Ariel Rivera

ALABANG

THE AYALA MALL EVENTS
This week's Events

Jan. 15-31
GRAND FIESTA SALE

Feb. 2
ART FOR PEACE

Feb. 2
MULLATO BAND SHOW

Feb. 3
MASSKARA TRIBE PARADE
4 PM - Town Plaza

Feb. 3
PEACE & UNITY THROUGH THE ARTS
6 PM - Activity Center

For inquiries please call ATC customer service at 842-2782

CEBU

CALENDAR AD
For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002

Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)

USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)

Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)

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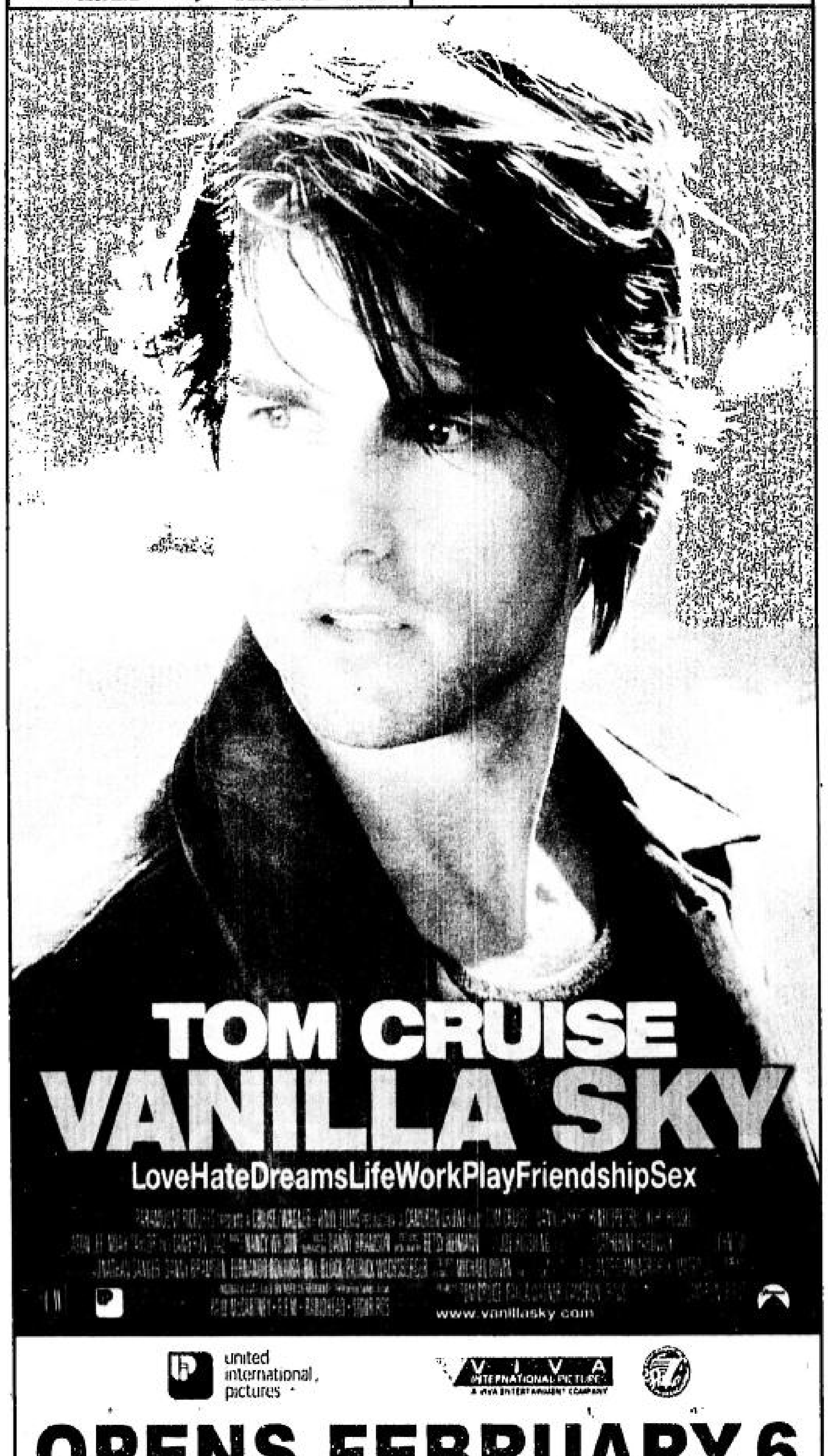
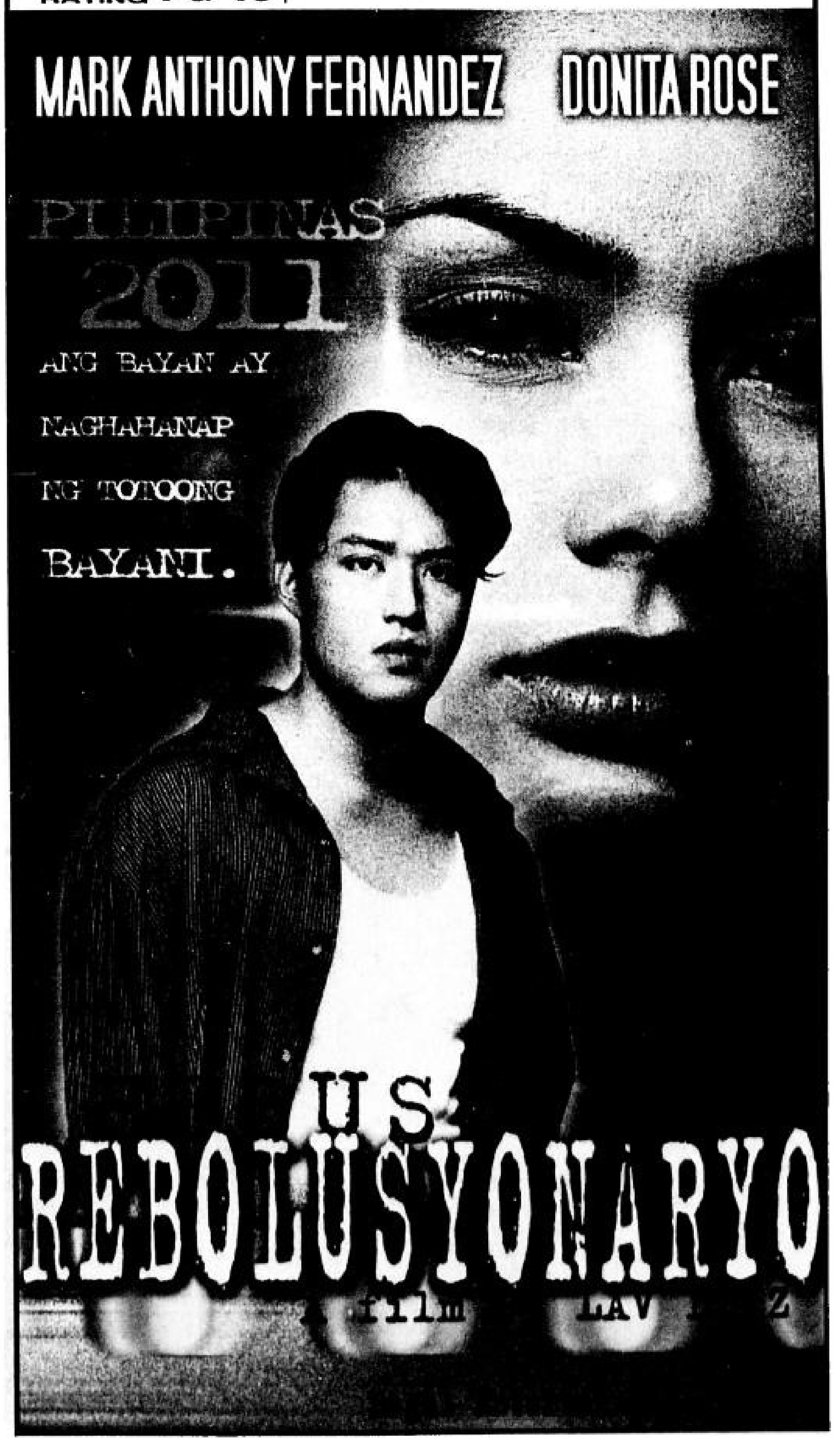


OPENS FEBRUARY 6 !

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



# ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

## A visit from Vandolph, he with the unbearable sorrow

**KRIS AND TELL**

*Kris Aquino*

I WAS in my dressing room during taping at ABS-CBN Friday night when I got a visit from a dear friend. **Vandolph.**

He had joined his dad **Dolphy** for the taping of "Home Along da Riles," the show where Vandolph grew up before our very eyes during the past 10 years.

Nearly three months after his horrific road accident in Pangasinan province, the Vandolph who visited me was living proof of the healing power of prayer. There were still fresh scars from the pick-up's shattered glass on his arms and face, but Vandolph was walking, although with the loving, protective aid of his *Ate* **Sally**.

He visited with me for about 15 minutes. He reminisced about the last time we saw each other at ABS. This was in late October, after I read in the INQUIRER that his girlfriend was exceptionally pretty. I told my *Kumpareng* Vandolph (he is **Josh**'s baptismal *ninong*) that I had to meet **Ishi** because I wanted to see just how beautiful she really was. He said he would bring her to meet me, but he had to look for her since she had gone ahead to the ABS cafeteria.

Unfortunately, I didn't get the chance to meet her since I had to resume taping in my studio.

Vandolph looked like he had lost at least 30 pounds since the last time I saw him. Even if he was dressed all in white, there was no denying that he had become noticeably thin.

When I told him looked good in white, he said he always wore white because it was Ishi's favorite color on him.

I asked how his therapy was going. He showed me all the outward signs of his physical pain, the leg brace he had to wear, the stitches on his broken arm, and all the wounds and cuts still healing on his hands, chin and neck.

"The doctors said I suffered fractures because I shielded her (Ishi) with my body (during impact)," he said in Filipino. His right arm has a very long, thin vertical scar. I've seen this same type of surgical stitching on others who have had metal rods implanted to reconnect their severely fractured bones.

I grew teary eyed when Vandolph thanked me. "My *Ate* (gesturing towards Sally) told me you visited me in the hospital. Thank you, especially for your mother's rosary that you lent me."

I told him he did not have to thank me because I loved him very much. I said the whole country had really prayed for him and Ishi, and that I haven't stopped praying.

I also told him he was so fortunate to be so cherished by his entire family, most especially his dad. There's no denying that Vandolph is "the sun, moon, and stars" of his dad. I was there when the team of doctors finished the nearly 11 hours of surgery on him.

I told Vandolph that when the chief surgeon gave *Tito* Dolphy a positive prognosis, his dad shed so much tears of joy and kept kissing my mom's rosary from Sr. **Lucia** that I had brought them. It was like Tito Dolphy was also given a new lease on life.

Vandolph checked on his godchild. "Is Josh still as handsome as I?" I told him Josh's 100-pound body he really took after his godfather because Josh is as fat now as Vandolph was when he was the same age. Vandolph asked me if I could bring Josh over to visit him, and I said we would both look forward to bonding with him.

I asked him if he was praying a lot now. He said that after he was told that Ishi had passed away, *"lalo pa 'kong kumapit sa Diyos."*

I also asked how his mom (**Alma Moreno**) was doing and he said that although he was spending more time with his dad, he was making sure to visit and check on her regularly.

Finally I asked him how he was emotionally. It was when I really looked into his eyes, and not just his overall injuries, that I saw the depth of his pain. I tried my best to not show him that I was about to cry. Just looking at his expression every time even an indirect reference was made about Ishi, I could feel that he truly loved her, and he was now just slowly coming to terms with the fact that he and she would no longer be sharing a lifetime together.

When I was pregnant with Josh, Vandolph, then just 10 years old, always made it a point to give me a call, and visit me. He was a child, but he had so much kindness and compassion to share with me, es-

A VISIT / A28

## Learning from our Asian neighbors

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

SOME years ago, Filipino movies were the envy of other filmmakers in Asia because they had proven to be impervious to the juggernaut of Hollywood blockbusters. That's no longer true today, unfortunately.

To add to local film people's sense of frustration, some Asian countries' film industries are experiencing better times. Maybe we can now learn valuable lessons from them?

Hong Kong producers are benefiting from the success at the Oscars of the Hong Kong-Taiwan production, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," which has heightened interest in Chinese movies. Some 130 movies were made in Hong Kong last year, compared to around 90 in the Philippines.

Film year 2002 promises to be even better for Hong Kong producers, who are planning to bankroll around 150 films. On the Filipino film scene, the situation is improving more slowly, and local producers would be sufficiently heartened if the Filipino movie industry's output breaks the 100-film mark.

South Korea is also experiencing a surge in filmmaking, thanks to government subsidy and other incentives.

But the biggest success story is the Thai movie industry, which earned a lot last year not only from local productions but also from foreign movies shot in Thailand.

In 2000, only 29 foreign films were shot in Thailand, but the 2001 figure is double that, 59. All told (including commercials and documentaries), Thailand earned US$28 million from the filming of foreign movies there, more than double the 2000 earnings of US$12 million.

If the Philippines made US$28 million from foreign filming here, that would mean an income of P1.4 billion—an impressive figure, by any account!

Not content with its already noteworthy success in this regard, Thailand may further relax its rules and regulations this year, to attract even more foreign production companies to its shores.

What can we learn from these three countries' positive experiences? First, government and the movie industry have to work together, not against each other (as is sometimes the case these days) to effect the needed reforms.

Second, the government should change its attitude regarding movies, and realize that they are important to the nation's life and thus deserve to be encouraged, subsidized and otherwise boosted.

Third, local audiences should develop greater love for our own movies, and rise above the colonial mentality that partly explains their preference for Hollywood imports.

Fourth, our producers should update and improve their products, to convince viewers that local movies are no longer the quickies, sleazies and formula flicks that many of them used to be in the past, which is why their heretofore loyal viewers finally gave up on them.

Only if all sectors act together in this wise will Filipino films experience the surge currently being enjoyed by movie people in Hong Kong, South Korea and Thailand.

### Manila Flute Choir

THE MCO Foundation is featuring the Manila Flute Choir in a concert at Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall on Feb. 15. The ensemble is the first of its kind in the country.

The concert is the fifth part of the current MCO season, and is the foundation's post-Valentine offering.

### 'Angel' returns

STARTING this Tuesday, Feb. 5, Studio 23 re-telecasts selected episodes of "Angel" (at 8:30 p.m.). The series has **David Boreanaz** playing the title character, a centuries–old vampire "cursed" with a conscience. Other lead players are **Charisma Carpenter**, **Glenn Quinn** and **Alexis Denisof**.

These repeat episodes will pave the way for the second season of "Angel," which starts telecasting soon.

### Feedback

FROM **Wilma Regalado** of Makati City, "Your comments about the "encroaching conservation" at the MTRCB are food for thought. If prevailing community stan-

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| OCEAN'S ELEVEN - P13<br>12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00 | HEARTS IN ATLANTIS - P13<br>11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50 | BLACK HAWK DOWN - P13<br>1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10 |

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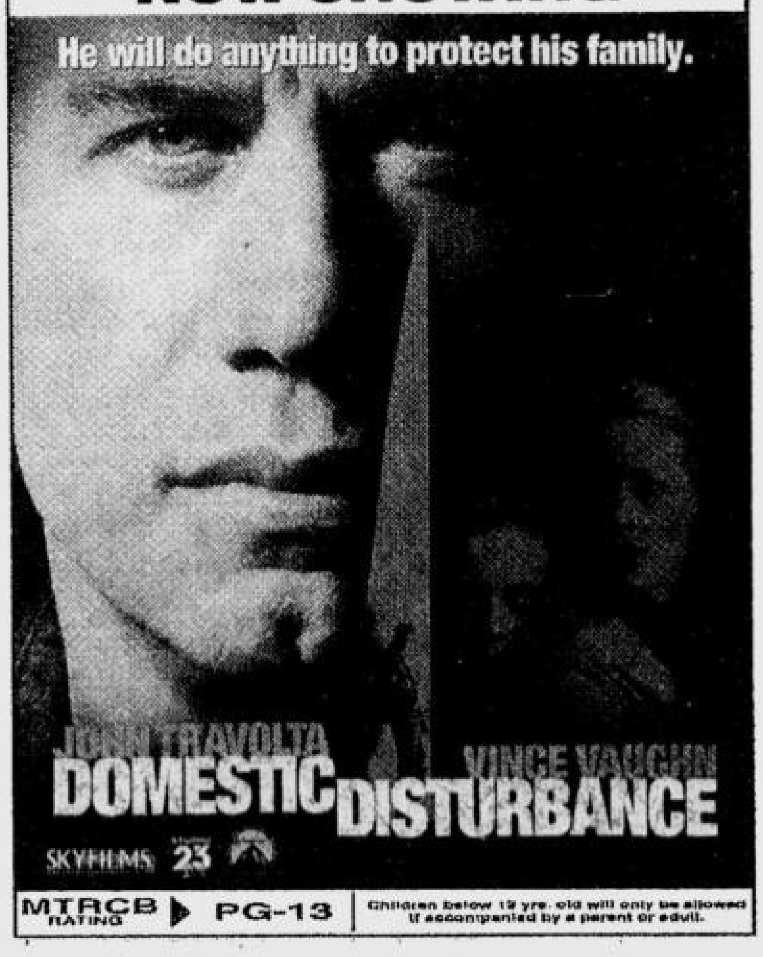

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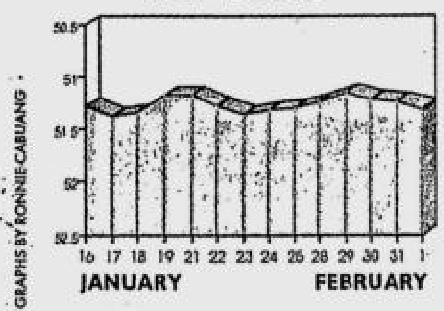

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## Profit-taking seen

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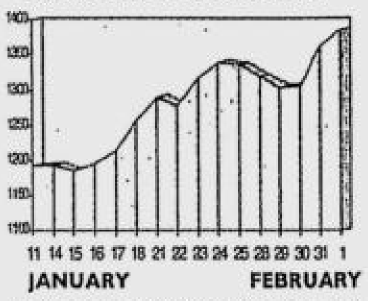

*(See stock market report on Page B4)*

THE LOCAL stock market is seen ripe for profit-taking this week after a sharp rally triggered by favorable economic reports and corporate earnings last week, but any pullback is considered only as a respite in its journey toward higher grounds.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed at a six-month high of 1,386.31 on Friday, gaining another 3.68 percent or 49.16 points week-on-week.

*(See story on Page B4.)*

# BSP to tighten Dosri, single borrower's limits

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is planning to limit the exposure of banks to a single borrower by reducing the loan ceiling and by treating a conglomerate with several subsidiaries and affiliates as a single borrower.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said that these were among the new policies that the central bank had been consulting with locally operating lenders before implementing them.

Reyes said the central bank had prepared three draft circulars dealing on single borrower's limit, insider lending and unsound banking practices. He said these new policies should strengthen the banking system and help prevent bank failures.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an earlier interview that the central bank was determined to raise governance standards of banks operating locally to avert future disasters and bank failures caused by abuses of people who run the bank.

The BSP, Reyes said, wanted to reduce the single borrower's limit, whether to an individual or a corporation, from 25 percent to not more than 15 percent of its capital.

In the same draft, the BSP official said the central bank had proposed to redefine a single corporate borrower as one that belongs to a group with same shareholders. Currently, a corporation is treated independently from its affiliates and subsidiaries.

"There are discussions on whether we should define a single corporate borrower as just the company or the parent company," Reyes said.

He explained that by tightening the definition of a single corporate borrower, the loan default arising from affiliate groups could be prevented.

However, the new definition, if approved, could also give companies a more difficult time in accessing credit that would be essential in financing new projects or an expansion.

Reyes said a separate draft circular that would tighten the policy on lending to directors, officers, shareholders and related interests or Dosri was also being discussed with the banking sector.

He said the new policies would be implemented within the first quarter and were in the final stages of completion.

On the Dosri policy, the BSP wanted to align the limit on lending to related interests to a similar policy on directors, officers and shareholders. These three groups could only borrow from the bank an amount equivalent to their deposits and shareholdings.

Reyes said there was also a plan to tighten the ceiling on Dosri lending. The central bank currently provides that a bank could not lend more than 15 percent of its unimpaired capital to Dosri.

Also in the works, said the BSP official, was a circular on unsound banking practices.

The central bank is planning to enumerate a list of unsound practices, for instance, an incorrect recording of income or a failure to list down expenses, that should guide the lenders in their operations.

"The circular on unsound banking practices is meeting stiff opposition from the banks. They don't want us to become very specific and to just leave the discretion to them on what constitutes unsafe practice," Reyes said.

Buenaventura had said that most of the recent bank failures and near failures could ultimately be traced to insider abuse.

"The new law has provided us the legal basis to issue strengthened regulations on Dosri loans and the single borrower's limit," the central bank chief said.

The central bank had earlier come up with new guidelines and requirements for bank board directors who must also pass first the BSP's fit-and-proper rule before they could assume their position.

The banking law of 2000 also allowed the Monetary Board to disqualify, suspend or remove any bank director or officer "who commits an act rendering him unfit for the position."

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# Asean to tackle proposed expansion of Afta

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

THE PHILIPPINES is asking its peers in the Asean to study for at least one year a proposal to expand the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) to include Mainland China.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said all Asean members should make a thorough review of the proposed free trade agreement before signing an agreement.

Roxas said it was difficult to weigh the pros and cons of having China in Afta, considering that it was only last year that China was accepted into the World Trade Organization. It remains to be seen how China will comply with its commitments under a free trade regime, he added.

During the Asean summit in Brunei last year, Asean leaders and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji endorsed the establishment of a free trade area between China and Southeast Asia within the next 10 years. The trade official clarified that the Asean leaders merely approved a review of the free trade area without making a firm commitment to implement it.

The planned China-Asean FTA is projected to boost Chinese and Asean exports by 50 percent while adding one-percent growth to Asean's gross domestic product and .3-percent to China's economy. Asean is currently China's fifth largest trade partner.

Roxas said that while China was a potentially huge market with its over 1 billion people, some Asean members were wary that it would compete in the same industries that Asean countries excel in.

Roxas said a major concern was the agriculture sector, which could be swamped by China's farm products and processed foods. "China is a direct competitor of most Asean countries in agriculture," Roxas said.

In the Philippines' case, Roxas said a free trade deal with China could open up new markets for Philippine semiconductor and electronics exports and commodities such as copper. He said it could also boost the country's access to raw materials from China.

Roxas said China's "early harvest" offer to open up its market to Asean members ahead of other countries should also be taken into consideration.

Asean is set to hold a Senior Economic Officials meeting this month in Bangkok to discuss the proposed free trade agreements with China, Japan and Australia-New Zealand.

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# Who wants to live forever?

**QUESTIONS OF POLICIES**

*Honesto C. General*

GERIATRICS is a branch of medicine that deals with the problems and diseases of old age and aging people. It is a relatively new line of specialization in the Philippines. But it is a steadily growing practice as more Filipinos are living longer.

Recently, the elderly group in my neighborhood invited Dr. Shelley de la Vega to talk about the problems of aging. Dr. De la Vega took up graduate studies in geriatrics at Harvard and is now a faculty member of the UP College of Medicine. From my notes, here are some tips on how to grow old gracefully.

1. Sleep seven to eight hours a day. Don't worry if you do not sleep seven hours straight at night. As long as, at the end of the day, you get your seven to eight hours, naps included, then you are okay.

2. Eat breakfast. Some of us tend to skip breakfast, which is not good. Eat plenty of vegetables and fruits. Prefer fish and chicken to beef and pork. If you like meat, here's something I discovered myself; lamb is always lean because it does not get marbleized, no matter how much fat there is. Just cut away the fat.

3. Limited alcohol intake. My doctor, Antonio "Bimbo" Sibulo Jr., limits me to 14 bottles of beer a week. But I am not to guzzle all fourteen in one sitting. This is why I remain his loyal patient.

4. Exercise. You are never too old to start exercising. Dr. De la Vega told us about some elderlies who improved their health after exercising for the first time in their lives. I am about to buy an exercise bicycle at Leveriza in Pasay.

5. No smoking. I smoke any given number of cigarettes. What else can I say?

6. Regular check-up. I have a complete blood and urine examination every three months. Then I bring the results to Bimbo. I saw him last month and he found my blood sugar high. He has prescribed some pill to take daily.

7. Immunization. We elderlies need this because we are more vulnerable.

8. Optimism. Look at the bright side of things. God does not give you a cross too heavy for you to bear. My neighbor Naz lives with his wife Ching who does all the cooking in their fully paid house. Their son and daughter are both living in the States. A maid comes once a week to clean the house. Recently, Naz had a pacemaker installed. Yet, he keeps his perpetual smile on his face. Ching is 90, Naz is 91.

9. Do not isolate. Volunteer for some church or charity work. Join and be active in some associations in the neighborhood. My cousin Job is a member of a group that has breakfast once a week at a restaurant nearby. Their meetings have no fixed agenda. They talk about everything under the sun. Of late, I imagine the group must have been heatedly arguing over the presence of American GIs in Basilan.

Best of all, join the Philippines Association of Retired Persons (PARP). Write me at the INQUIRER or my e-mail address: 06hydragen@vasia.com.

Have a nice day!

# Money supply growth slows down to 6.8%

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

INDICATING a need to infuse additional funds into the system, the growth in the domestic liquidity as of December significantly slowed down to 6.8 percent from a double-digit level in the previous year. The December rate was also much below the central bank's revised target of 11 percent for last year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the BSP could allow the domestic liquidity to grow by as much as 13 percent this year to support the requirements of the economy, particularly in view of the projected modest inflation and the improved economic growth outlook.

Tetangco hinted a possible cut in the reserve requirement imposed on banks, which is now at 16 percent, if monetary authorities would be able to verify that the amount of money in the system was not sufficient to support a 4 to 5 percent gross domestic product growth.

He said that the better-than-expected growth of 3.8 percent in the GDP in the fourth quarter of 2001 validated a stronger economic outlook for this year.

Domestic liquidity or M3 is a measure of money supply in the system including money held by individuals, institutional investors and banks. A slowdown in the M3 indicates a decline in consumer spending as well as in the demand for loans.

The growth in December was only slightly higher than the 6.7 percent year-on-year M3 growth in the previous month.

"The cuts in the banks' reserve requirement in December and January, equivalent to four percentage points, have not been fully felt by the economy," he said. Banks opted to wait for the maturity of the treasury bills they had surrendered rather than liquefy them immediately, Tetangco explained.

The reduction in the banks' reserve requirement should have freed P55 billion in funds. However, banks opted to invest the bulk of the amount in government securities.

The slowdown in the domestic liquidity growth, said the central bank, was due in part to a weak lending activity in the face of excess industrial capacity and the banks' hesitance to lend because of rising bad loans level.

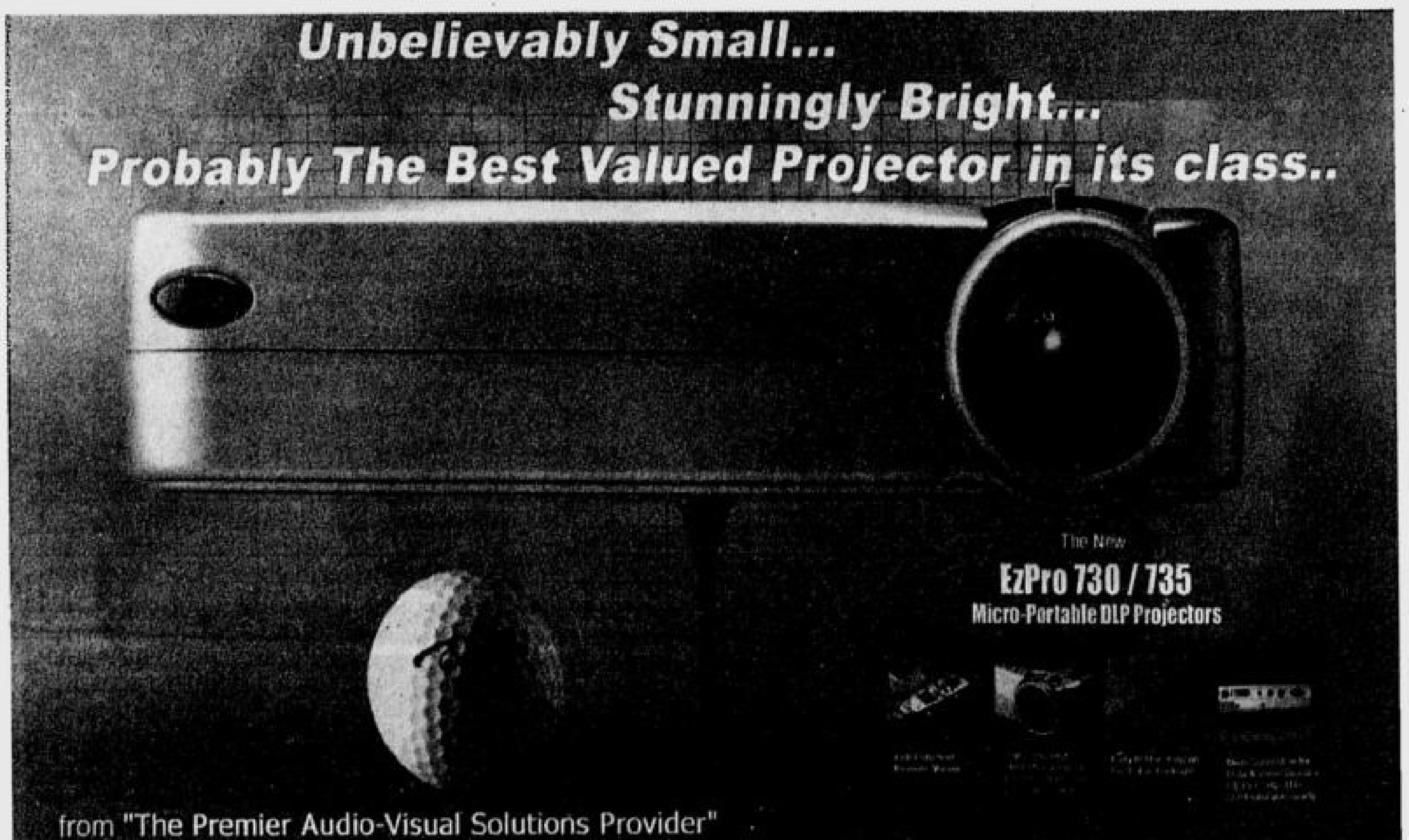
Banks preferred to park their money in risk free although low-yielding treasury bills.

Credits extended to the government continued to grow by 11.9 percent in December while loans to the private sector contracted by 3 percent in the same period.

Tetangco said the private companies' demand for loans was limited by the excess manufacturing capacity. He noted that the average capacity utilization as of November stood at 76.6 percent or almost unchanged from the October level of 76.5 percent.

After peaking at 14.7 percent in May, growth in domestic liquidity steadily declined following the BSP's move to raise the banks' reserve requirement by a total of four percentage points in July and August.

The central bank was originally targeting to let domestic liquidity grow by 15 percent toward the end of 2001.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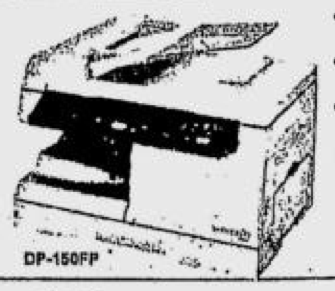

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# Tip of judicial rot

## COCKTALES

*Victor C. Agustin*

YOU may not agree with his method, but you may not begrudge him for courage and strength of character.

Baguio RTC Judge Ruben Ayson did a judicial Serpico when he, in an unprecedented move, exposed the alleged corrupt, certainly questionable, practices of his fellow judges, including his superior. Details of the Ayson exposé were chronicled in the INQUIRER's front page on Saturday.

Ayson, for the non-lawyers, was recently named by the Supreme Court as the country's most outstanding Regional Trial Court judge. He is remembered by Bedans as the class valedictorian of San Beda Law '64, also known as the class of former Sen. Rene A.V. Saguisag.

The main subject of the Ayson exposé, Executive Judge Antonio Reyes, has been observed by the judicial and legal circles of Baguio of having the uncanny luck of winning the weekly case raffles, always getting the cases involving big money and big families to his sala.

Reyes, who started in Ateneo but finished law in Far Eastern University, has apparently also the most number of conflict-of-interest cases pending with the Supreme Court.

What was not reported in the Saturday paper was a case filed by a longtime American businessman in Baguio involving a pedophilia case against the Baguio Country Club and Reyes granting bail to two shabu dealers despite their being caught with 1.5 kilos of the illegal drug, more than the 200-gram limit for posting bail.

In the BCC pedophilia case, Judge Reyes, according to the American businessman, volunteered to mediate and settle the case out-of-court on the strength of his being an Ateneo classmate of BCC president Federico Agcaoili.

But when the mediation efforts failed and the American businessman pursued the complaint, guess where the case landed?

To Judge Reyes! The funny thing is, not only did he refuse to inhibit himself, Judge Reyes even dismissed the pedophilia complaint on a technicality.

Not to be trifled with, the American businessman, who is a US Department of Defense contractor, elevated the case to the Supreme Court, which ordered a retrial.

To be fair, Judge Reyes thinks there is nothing wrong with his mediating the Baguio Country Club/pedophilia case.

If a sitting Supreme Court justice was, like Reyes, seen wining and dining and socializing with the same litigants in the Baguio Country Club despite the justice being the *ponente* in a related celebrated case, why should a mere RTC judge like Reyes be faulted for merely aping his Supreme Court superior?

### Archit's new hat

ARSENIO Bartolome III, the ex-"top gun" of Urban Bank and Philippine National Bank, is wearing an insurer's hat these days.

Bartolome is now the chair of ABBA Insurance Brokers—ABBA representing the first letter of the names of his four children—a non-life agency that services even competing insurers such as Prudential Guarantee, Malayan, and Pioneer.

Sidelined by the closure of Urban Bank, Bartolome enrolled at the Ateneo for a master's degree in public administration but dropped out after only the first semester last year, the ex-Tondo boy saying he needed to work and earn a living.

According to the grapevine, Bartolome, who declined an offer from taipan Lucio Tan to join the board of either University of the East (Bartolome is a UE graduate) or Allied Bank, has finished a monograph detailing the whys and wherefores of the downfall of the Urban Bank.

The Bartolome paper promises to be a must-reading for any one interested in the interplay of business and politics, specially Philippine banking with the rough-and-tumble world of Erap politics.

### Shop attack

THE RETAIL competition in Libis is heating up.

Shopwise, which is due to open on Thursday, its third biggest store in the booming retail/entertainment district, has seen its banners removed

COCKTALES/ B5

# Napocor cancels $500-M bond issue

By Clarissa S. Batino

A POWER-PACKED Philippine team tasked to sell the debt papers of National Power Corp. in the United States and Europe would go home empty-handed after the government decided to cancel the $500-million, seven-year bond issue because of prohibitive yields that investors wanted.

A government source in New York said in a phone interview that Philippine energy officials and financial advisers Bear Stearns & Co. as well as JP Morgan Chase decided to withdraw the bond flotation.

Foreign investors, the source said, were only willing to buy the Napocor bonds at a rate almost one percentage point higher than the yield—ranging from 9.25 to 9.5 percent—that the two investment banks had canvassed when they were trying to build the books or take or-

NAPOCOR/ B6

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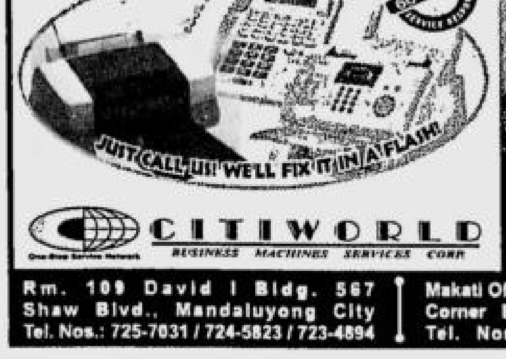

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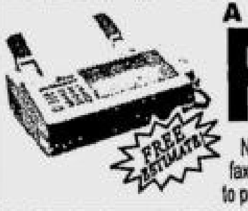

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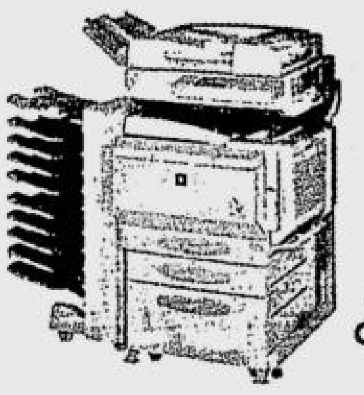

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Photo may vary with actual car.

# Profit-taking seen to temper stock gains

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

**MARKET PLAY**

THE LOCAL stock market is seen ripe for profit-taking this week after a sharp rally triggered by favorable economic reports and corporate earnings last week, but any pullback is considered only as a respite in its journey toward higher grounds.

"The market is currently in the process of challenging a long-term bearish pattern," SB Equities manager for institutional sales Monique Licaros said. "But it will need to break out of 1,750 to confirm a bullish reversal. Of course that's still a long way to go, but by this week, we'll address 1,400."

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed at a

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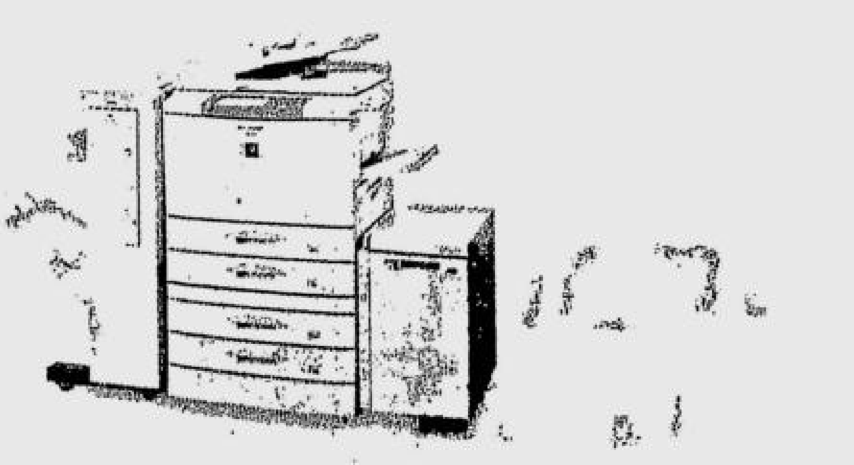

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(As of Friday, February 1, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 67.5 | 68.5 | 67 | 68 | 807,600 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 4,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 29 | 29.5 | 28.5 | 28.5 | 914,100 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 4,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 205 | 211 | 205 | 208 | 306,340 |
| Philippine National Bank | 73 | 73.5 | 73 | 73 | 15,300 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 28.5 | 29 | 28.5 | 29 | 5,400 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13 | 13 | 23,300 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 18.5 | 18.75 | 18.5 | 18.75 | 107,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 17 | 17.25 | 16.25 | 16.25 | 926,100 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 129,000 |
| Filipino Fund Inc. | 0.34 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.35 | 150,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1270 | 1275 | 1270 | 1275 | 200 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 10,000 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 990 | 990 | 980 | 980 | 2,070 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 35.5 | 37 | 35 | 35.5 | 54,400 |
| Diversified Fin. Network | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2,000 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc | .5700 | 0.62 | 0.57 | 0.58 | 26,420,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 765 | 765 | 745 | 765 | 28,150 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.039 | 0.04 | 7,900,000 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 20,000 |
| Piltel | 0.45 | 0.51 | 0.45 | 0.47 | 23,460,000 |
| Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co. | 0.3 | 0.32 | 0.3 | 0.32 | 270,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 540 | 540 | 530 | 530 | 172,770 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.63 | 0.66 | 0.63 | 0.63 | 830,000 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.025 | 0.025 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 142,900,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 27.5 | 29 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 195,700 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 40.5 | 41.5 | 40.5 | 41 | 1,991,800 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.92 | 1.98 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 14,558,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 190,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.04 | 1.1 | 1.04 | 1.1 | 48,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.05 | 3.1 | 13,012,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 10,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Alsons Cement Corp. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 10,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.36 | 0.38 | 0.36 | 0.37 | 1,640,000 |
| Fortune Cement Corp. | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 10,000 |
| Phil Nat'l Const. Corp. | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 24,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 110,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 4,010,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 2.1 | 2.12 | 2.1 | 2.12 | 42,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13.75 | 14.25 | 13.75 | 14 | 755,600 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 24 | 24 | 23.75 | 23.75 | 75,400 |
| RFM Corp. | 2.9 | 2.95 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 1,578,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 45 | 45.5 | 45 | 45.5 | 215,900 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 60 | 61 | 60 | 61 | 1,200,000 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 115,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 130,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 9,412,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 1.76 | 1.82 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 892,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.84 | 0.84 | 0.83 | 0.83 | 230,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.008 | 0.0085 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 140,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 1,920,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2 | 2.2 | 2 | 2.2 | 30,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.84 | 0.86 | 0.81 | 0.83 | 40,980,000 |
| A Brown Company Inc. | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 4,000,000 |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.14 | 0.165 | 0.135 | 0.16 | 2,910,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0.42 | 3,620,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.33 | 0.34 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 5,090,000 |
| Ebecom Holdings Inc. | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 10,340,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corp. | 0.28 | 0.33 | 0.28 | 0.33 | 30,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.08 | 1.18 | 1.08 | 1.18 | 5,734,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 12,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs. Corp. | 31.5 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 375,000 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.195 | 0.195 | 6,620,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 200,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 9 | 9.4 | 9 | 9.4 | 348,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.84 | 1.9 | 1.84 | 1.88 | 740,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 1.52 | 1.54 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 148,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. A | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.019 | 300,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. B | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.019 | 300,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 100,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.89 | 0.9 | 0.85 | 0.87 | 7,060,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 10,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 19,790,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.34 | 0.35 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 10,200,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 500,000 |
| Solid Group Inc. | 0.41 | 0.44 | 0.41 | 0.41 | 2,430,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.19 | 0.2 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 1,440,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.35 | 0.36 | 1,800,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Interphil Labs Inc. B | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.85 | 20,000 |
| Metro Alliance Holdings | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 30,000,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.53 | 140,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 14 | 14.25 | 14 | 14.25 | 509,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 10,920,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.63 | 0.65 | 0.63 | 0.63 | 1,990,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.42 | 0.45 | 0.41 | 0.45 | 510,000 |
| Mondragon Intl Phils, Inc. | 0.7 | 0.74 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 690,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 35.5 | 37 | 35.5 | 35.5 | 601,900 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref. | 710 | 710 | 710 | 710 | 7,050 |
| Equitable PCI Bank-War | 1.88 | 1.88 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 20,000 |
| Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr) | 745 | 750 | 745 | 750 | 2,650 |
| Jollibee Warrants | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 10,000 |
| Omico Corp. Warrant | 0.0016 | 0.0018 | 0.0016 | 0.0016 | 400,000,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series U | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 500 |
| Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 128,000,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 12,462,000 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 100,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 10,880,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.49 | 0.5 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 4,290,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.34 | 0.35 | 0.33 | 0.33 | 22,470,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 2.48 | 2.65 | 2.48 | 2.65 | 37,217,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 800,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.29 | 0.3 | 2,410,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 2,990,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 1.52 | 1.56 | 1.52 | 1.56 | 40,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 6.9 | 7 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 4,890,000 |
| Universal Rightfield Prop. | 0.09 | 0.1 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 2,500,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 100,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 100,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0044 | 0.0046 | 0.0044 | 0.0044 | 25,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't. | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 31,000 |
| Itogon-Suyoc Mines A | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.042 | 0.042 | 26,800,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 1,880,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 4,260,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.004 | 0.0042 | 0.004 | 0.004 | 281,000,000 |
| Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp. | 0.02 | 0.021 | 0.02 | 0.021 | 19,700,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 360,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 1,720,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.023 | 0.023 | 0.022 | 0.023 | 106,200,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 0.0042 | 1,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 30,000,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.018 | 0.018 | 40,400,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.1 | 0.11 | 0.1 | 0.11 | 400,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l. | 0,21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0,21 | 20,000 |

## CURRENCIES

Feb. 01, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.164687 | 1.000000 | 51.2380 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008654 | 0.007430 | 0.3807 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.642441 | 1.410200 | 72.2558 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.149511 | 0.128370 | 6.5774 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.677222 | 0.581463 | 29.7930 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.733430 | 0.629723 | 32.2657 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.633164 | 0.543626 | 27.8543 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.590511 | 0.507099 | 25.9827 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 3.089519 | 2.652661 | 135.9170 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.311414 | 0.267380 | 13.7000 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.633085 | 0.543567 | 27.8513 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000113 | 0.000097 | 0.0050 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.026470 | 0.022727 | 1.1645 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.317180 | 0.272331 | 13.9537 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000893 | 0.000767 | 0.0393 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.858600 | 43.9929 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.483273 | 0.414938 | 21.2606 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134636 | 0.115770 | 5.9318 |
| India | Rupee | 0.024064 | 0.020661 | 1.0586 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.306497 | 0.263158 | 13.4837 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.127364 | 0.109355 | 5.6031 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.484680 | 0.416146 | 21.3225 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.127729 | 0.109668 | 5.6192 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.019428 | 0.016681 | 0.8547 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.102390 | 0.087912 | 4.5044 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.109203 | 0.093762 | 4.8042 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.022703 | 0.019493 | 0.9988 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.033392 | 0.02867 | 1.4690 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.001521 | 0.001306 | 0.0669 |

# Longer trading hours eyed

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange aims to extend its trading hours to take advantage of improving investor confidence starting on Feb. 12, in time to welcome the Chinese New Year of the Horse, which is generally associated with success.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, PSE president Ernest Leung said the local bourse was now putting the necessary backroom and clearing facilities to allow afternoon trading and that the forthcoming Chinese New Year was a "doable" target.

"It's a good date to target. Some people believe in good fortunes with the New Year and I'm optimistic, but not absolutely sure, that the backroom concerns would have been settled by then," Leung said.

To date, the PSE ends at mid-day, one of the few remaining markets in the world operating on a half-day basis aside from Iran, Slovenia and Taiwan (but is open on Saturdays).

The PSE president said there were a lot of arguments favoring the extension of trading hours, among which was to provide additional liquidity to the exchange as well as to put the local bourse at par with the operations of regional markets.

Leung said the PSE was awaiting a report from the clearing and settlement committee, which was supposed to have met on Friday to firm up its recommendations. But he said he has sat down with officials of Philippine Clearing and Settlement Corp. to make sure that its equipment could cope with longer trading hours.

Industry sources said, however, that the committee would propose to the PSE board an extension of the trading hours in the afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, in a recent meeting with the PSE member-brokers, encouraged the bourse to extend its trading hours.

"I think this might be the single best thing for the development of the capital markets since the merger of the Makati and Manila Stock Exchanges," said Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas, one of the original proponents of the longer trading hours. "It shows that the Philippines is open for business and more volume. More volume attracts more volume. There is also less risk because there is more liquidity. It will be a good service to investors."

Roxas also said the extension of the PSE's trading hours might just be the catalyst needed to stop the spate of closures among stock brokerage houses, specially foreign-owned ones, which has hit the exchange since last year when trading volume shrunk to all-time lows.

"There's a bigger market to divide so there's no need to decrease the number of brokers," he said.

## Cocktales

From page B3

from the lampposts along C-5.

Strangely, only those banners fronting and within the immediate vicinity of Uniwide supermarket had been ripped out.

Hmmm.

In addition to Shopwise, the Robinsons has also just opened a supermarket in the area, which not too long ago was a desolate factory row.

### Heard through the grapevine

THE SHORTAGE of Pop Cola and Sarsi should be over by next week.

San Miguel Corp., which stopped delivery of Pop Cola and Sarsi to the major supermarkets middle of last month following its takeover of Cosmos Bottling, has informed dealers it will resume deliveries of the popular soft drink products by late this week or, at the latest, next week.

*(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com at or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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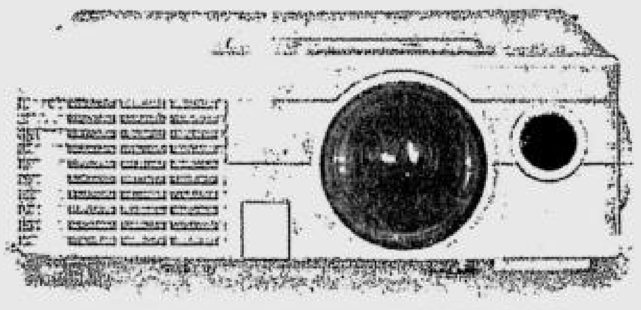

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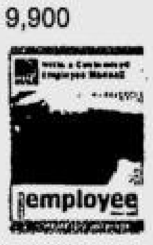

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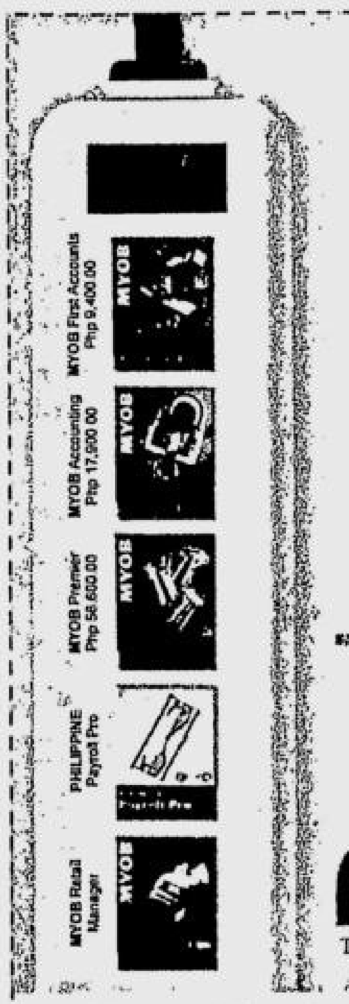

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# Gov't plans to issue 20-year bonds worth ₱15B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to issue as much as P15 billion worth of treasury bonds maturing in 20 to 25 years to take advantage of the declining domestic interest rates.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the finance department was reviewing the possibility of tapping the long-term peso bond market to raise funds for the financing of the government's P130-billion projected budget deficit this year.

Edeza said the government was planning to issue only P5 billion worth of 20- or 25-year treasury bonds. But if there would be big demand for the long-term borrowing, the size of the issue could be increased to as much as P15 billion.

The treasurer pointed out, however, that banks were not very interested in long-term instruments. If ever, it would be the insurance companies are expected to gobble up the 25-year debt papers.

"We are reviewing the program on the issuance of long-term bonds. The best time to do this is when rates are going down as we are seeing now," said the national treasurer.

If plans push through, Edeza said the long-term bonds might be issued in the first quarter.

"The government has to take advantage of the very low rates the market is offering. And it is better to do it while the central bank is still talking about a possible cut in its overnight rates so we can fetch a good price for our long-term borrowing," he noted.

Edeza said the last time the government had issued a 20-year bond was during the term of the Ramos administration.

The plan to borrow long-term from the domestic market, he said, was aimed at lengthening the maturity profile of the government's debts.

Treasury bill yields continued to decline in last week's auction but traders have mixed views on how today's auction will fare. Most believed that if there would be any further decline in the rates, it would be minimal.

A trader from a foreign bank said that yields of the treasury bills should even start to correct in today's auction following four consecutive weeks of substantial decline.

Unlike last year, Edeza said the government would borrow less from the domestic market this year and borrow more from foreign sources.

The government needs to raise $1.5 billion this year. So far it has already raised P1.05 billion from the global bond market, the Japanese private bond market and the dollar-deposit units of locally operating banks.

Edeza said the government might again raise $200 million from a dollar-to-peso swap facility. The proceeds of a planned $100 million to $200 million worth of bonds to be sold to overseas Filipino workers would also be used to finance this year's deficit.

Other options being considered were the issuance of additional dollar bonds backed by a guarantee from the World Bank as well as Japanese bonds backed by a guarantee from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

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# Maintaining tariff shield on petrochem seen to hurt other local industries

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES will have to sacrifice certain sectors, probably rice or sugar, in exchange for getting the nod of other Asean countries to a government's proposal to maintain tariff shields on petrochemical products.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said this was the reason why the Department of Trade and Industry was reluctant to lobby in Asean for a deferment of the tariff cuts on plastic resins due next year.

He said the stakes were too high and there was no guarantee that the beneficiaries would deliver on their promise to build an $800-million naphtha cracker plant. "Do we want to put at risk some of our industries to competition from imports for something that we are not even sure will rise in the future? What if the other countries ask us to sacrifice our rice or sugar sector?"

The Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines is urging the DTI to seek a deferment of the tariff cuts on resins from 15 percent to 5 percent next year.

The group, which manufactures resins using the monomer output of a naphtha cracker, wants the tariffs kept at 15 percent up to at least 2004 when the Philippines has built its own naphtha cracker. It said the DTI should lobby now because its chances of getting a deferment are becoming slimmer with the start of a free trade block in the region next year.

But Roxas chided the group for wanting the government to lobby now even before they have firmed up an investment plan for the naphtha cracker which has languished on the drawing board for years due to differences among consortium members and lack of financing.

Roxas said the best the group has shown to prove its capability to bankroll the cracker project was a P5-million fund for feasibility studies. "What's P5 million for a project that requires $800 million?"

The Philippines can opt to exempt some of its industries from the scheduled tariff cuts in 2003 under the Asean Free Trade Agreement just like Malaysia which wanted to further shield its automotive industry from foreign competition.

But Roxas has made clear that he would only exercise this option if there would be a firm investment commitment on the part of the proponents. Not even the fact that the cracker is an initiative of the state-run PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. and that it was endorsed by Energy Secretary Vincent Perez (he has talked to the Brunei government and Petronas of Malaysia for a possible stake in the project) will change his position, Roxas said.

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| Canlubang Golf | 600,000 | Camp John Hay Golf | 270,000 |
| Capitol Hills | 125,000 | Canyon Woods | 200,000 |
| Celebrity | 180,000 | Capitol Hills | 120,000 |
| Club Filipino | 210,000 | Eagle Ridge "A/B/C" | 350/400/550 |
| Eagle Ridge "A/B/C" | 350/400/550,000 | Forest Hill "A/C" | 210,000/270,000 |
| Fontana "A/B/C/D" | Please call | Luisita | Please call |
| Forest Hills "A/C" | 210,000/320,000 | Manila Golf (indv.) & Corp. | 10.6M/12.950M |
| Manila Golf (indv.) | 11M/12.970M | Manila Polo | 2,600,000 |
| Manila Polo | 2,650,000 | Manila Southwoods "A" | 640,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "A" | 645,000/745,000 | Makati Sports "A/B" | 250,000 |
| Makati Sports "A" | 250,000 | Metropolitan "A/B" | 100,000 |
| Mt. Malarayat "A/B/C" | 360/400/500 | Mt. Malarayat "A" | 350,000 |
| Orchard "A/B/C" | 230/300/360 | Orchard "A/B/C" | 220/300/350 |
| Philippine Columbian | 75,000 | Quezon City Sports | 200,000 |
| Riviera "B" | 260,000 | Riviera "A/B" | 190/250,000 |
| Royale Tagaytay "A/B" | 90,000 | Sta. Elena "A/B" | 1,650M/1.750M |
| Sherwood "A/B" | 100,000 | Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf | 350/800,000 |
| Tagaytay Highland Club/Golf | 360,000 | Tagaytay Midlands | 730,000 |
| Valle Verde CC/Corp. | 170,000/320,000 | Valle Verde CC | 170,000 |
| Valley Golf | 230,000 | Valley Golf | 210,000 |
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# Napocor cancels $500-M bond issue

From page B3

ders for the bonds.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. led the Philippine team that went on a roadshow last week to sell the bonds.

The government's big disappointment took place at a time when yields on emerging market borrowings including the Philippines had been going down, making foreign funds cheaper to access.

Investors also commanded an expensive price for the Napocor borrowing despite an investment grade rating for the debt issue from three major ratings firms—Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch.

A week ago, Bear Stearns believed the favorable ratings would make the bonds more attractive even to the more high-end foreign investors. The initial appetite even prompted the government to consider raising the size of the borrowing by $100 million to $500 million.

The state-run Napocor needs $1 billion in foreign financing this year to refinance $800 million worth of maturing debts and for its capital expenses. The soon-to-be-privatized Napocor has the sole franchise to operate the country's high-voltage electricity transmission and generation facilities.

So far, the power firm has raised $250 million after it had piggybacked with the national government's $750-million, 15-year bonds that offered a yield favorable to the Philippines.

The cancellation may prompt the national government to take on the task and borrow in behalf of the power firm as it had done last year when it issued $444 million worth of European bonds.

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| Calatagan Golf Club "B" | - | 110,000 |
| Camp John Hay | Please Call | 330,000 |
| Canlubang | 500,000 | 600,000 |
| Canyonwoods | Please Call | 330,000 |
| Capitol Hills | 110,000 | 130,000 |
| Cebu Country Club | 1,800,000 | 2,000,000 |
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| Forest Hills "B" | - | 250,000 |
| Forest Hills "C" | 270,000 | 300,000 |
| Makati Sports Club "A" | 200,000 | 270,000 |
| Makati Sports Club "B" | 300,000 | 375,000 |
| Manila Golf (Corporate) | 13,000,000 | 14,000,000 |
| Manila Golf (Individual) | 10,000,000 | 11,000,000 |
| Manila Polo | 2,500,000 | 2,650,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "A" | 600,000 | 670,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "B" | 650,000 | 800,000 |
| Metropolitan Club "B" | - | 150,000 |
| Montemar (Individual) | - | 30,000 |
| Mt. Malarayat | 350,000 | Please Call |
| Orchard Golf Club "A" | 200,000 | 250,000 |
| Orchard Golf Club "B" | 240,000 | 300,000 |
| Orchard Golf Club "C" | 300,000 | 500,000 |
| Philippine Columbian | - | 85,000 |
| Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C" | - | Please Call |
| Puerto Azul | - | 125,000 |
| Quezon City Sports Club | 200,000 | 230,000 |
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| Rockwell | Please Call | 550,000 |
| Sherwood Hills "A" | 100,000 | 160,000 |
| Sta. Elena "A" | 1,500,000 | 1,700,000 |
| Sta. Elena "B" | 1,750,000 | Please Call |
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| Tagaytay Midlands | 700,000 | 730,000 |
| The Country Club | Please Call | Please Call |
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| Valley Golf | 220,000 | 240,000 |
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| Eagleridge | 15,000 | Sta. Elena | 60,000 |
| Eastridge "A" | 20,000 | Tagaytay CC | 20,000 |
| Forest Hills | 30,000 | Tagaytay Golf | 45,000 |
| Manila Southwoods | 20,000 | Tagaytay Mid. | 35,000 |
| Makati Sports "A" | 25,000 | Valley Golf | 20,000 |
| Manila Golf | 300,000 | Wack-Wack | 90,000 |

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# Profit-taking . . .

From page B4

six-month high of 1,386.31 on Friday, gaining another 3.68 percent or 49.16 points week-on-week. Fueling the bullish sentiment was the report that the Philippine domestic economy grew by 3.4 percent in 2001 on robust agriculture and services sectors, thus exceeding even the government's target of 3.3 percent.

Licaros said there would still be opportunities for a further ascent this week but renewed selling pressures might trigger a pullback, possibly by mid-week.

"We're waiting to harvest gains but we're willing to retake positioning at any pullback," she said.

Although the daily market volume has now significantly improved to about P1 billion from last year's P500 million or less, Licaros said she would like to see further liquidity to fuel the market's rebound. She said the next technical resistance after the psychological barrier at 1,400 was at 1,450.

Citisecurities Inc. head of research April Lee-Tan also said some profit-taking pressures would emerge this week but agreed that the recent gains could be sustained.

"Any rally will be driven by corporate earnings, just like last week when the market rose on strong earnings reported by Metrobank and Globe Telecoms," Lee-Tan said.

"But even if the economic outlook is good, if people have been making big profits in the past few days, there'll be profit-taking," she said.

Summit Securities president Harry Liu said the market was bound for a short-term correction this week, but the maximum pullback would likely be at 1,250. "The market is building a base and it is becoming overbought so a correction is healthy at this point," Liu said.

Meanwhile, Licaros said property giant Ayala Land Inc. would likely encounter resistance at P6.80 this week while Filinvest Land Inc. would challenge P3. She also said First Philippine Holdings Corp. would likewise attempt to break out of P33.50 after which there would be some profit-taking.

She also said she would look out for Petron Corp., which already fell on profit-taking last Friday. She also said SB Equities was bullish on San Miguel Corp. and believed that the next technical target was at P80 from Friday's closing price of P61.

Traders also said the market has become sensitive to positive news.

Last week, for instance, stock market portal 2tradeasia.com cited that Pilipino Telephone Co. led gainers with a 27-percent rebound on speculation that a foreign firm was keen on buying the mobile firm.

Other market-moving events cited by 2tradeasia.com last week were: Digital Telecommunications rose by 20.8 percent on news it would launch its cellular venture by next quarter; Mining firm Lepanto Consolidated Mines gained 20.6 percent as the stock remained undervalued relative to the market; property firms ALI, FLI and City Land rose by 16.1 percent, 14.2 percent and 15.4 percent, respectively, on expectations that a possible rate cut would spur demand for their projects; International Container Terminal Services Inc. rose 10.7 percent on expectations that it would soon bid for a port in Melbourne, Australia, and Benpres Holdings rose 9.2 percent on hopes subsidiary Bayan Telecommunications would be able to conclude its debt rehabilitation plan with creditors by the year's end.

# SEC sets fraud raps vs boiler room firms

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is set to file fraud and estafa charges against seven alleged boiler room operators and their officers based on evidence obtained from a recent raid of the companies' Makati offices.

Officials from the SEC's compliance and enforcement department said evidence seized from one office inside the Enterprise building along Ayala Avenue and two offices inside Global Business Bank building showed that seven boiler room operators had been operating there.

Based on documents obtained by the raiding team, hundreds of foreign investors were defrauded an estimated $2.8 million by the following companies: Dragon Pacific Co. Ltd., Global Sales Link Corp., Gabrinie Green and Ross, Waterman and Noble, Mitra Gordon Dean Inc., Sterling Capital Corp., and Clients Settlements Services Inc.

Regulators identified the persons behind the operations as David Mattick, Daniel Carreon, Kevin Harris, Ian Farrel, Peter Smith, Matthew Behn, Larry Moore, David Gilinsky and Alan Quasi.

The offices were deserted when a team from the SEC and the National Bureau of Investigation arrived, as the officials of the firms were allegedly tipped off the day before. Many papers had been shredded or move to another place, but papers in locked drawers still provided important evidence, SEC officials said.

Evidence indicate that about 40 unlicensed brokers, mostly British, Canadians and Israelis, have established a telemarketing operation to entice overseas clients to invest in securities sold abroad, mainly in the United States.

# SEC approves ₱31.5-M IPO of Tambunting pawnshop chain

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved last week the application of the Tambunting family's TFS Inc., operator of a network of 50 pawnshops nationwide, to undertake an initial public offering to raise some P31.5 million to expand its operations.

SEC documents showed that TFS would offer 30 million new shares with a par value of P1 a share to the public at P1.05 a share.

The pawnshop chain currently has 70 million common shares that, together with the new shares, will also be registered and listed at the small and medium enterprise board of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The estimated P26.78 million in net proceeds from the offering will be used to expand the loan facility of the existing branches and to establish five new branches this year and five more next year, the company said.

Specifically, P17.75 million will be used for increasing the loan facility of its existing 50 branches, while P9.03 million will be allotted for branch expansion, it said.

TFS is the second company to apply for listing at the exchange's SME board after software developer SQL Wizard, which listed last year.

BV Partners Inc. will act as the financial adviser of TFS, while Keppel IVI Investments Inc. will be the underwriter and issue manager.

TFS, formerly TFS Pawnshop Inc., was incorporated on June 26, 1997 to engage in the pawnshop business. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tambunting Financial Services Holdings Corp., which is involved in general multi-finance services.

As of Sept. 30 last year, the company had a total of 50 branches, with 44 located within Metro Manila and six in central and southern Luzon. It has a consolidated loan portfolio of approximately P72.46 million.

TFS posted a loss of P14.5 million in 1999 and eked out a profit of P902,313 in 2000. As of Sept. 30 last year, the company's profit amounted to P129,939.

Early this year, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the government had set a 24 IPO target for the stock exchange this year given that the country's largest oil companies and other institutions would be required to sell shares to the public.

Several other small- to medium-sized firms have announced plans to conduct an IPO. Jolliville Holdings Corp., the flagship holding company of the Ting family, plans to offer to the public 30 million new common shares and 64.3 million common shares, or a total of 94.3 million shares based on a pending application with the SEC.

# Napocor to shoulder $800-M debt

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. will shoulder some $800 million in maturing loans, even as its assets are slated to be auctioned off this year.

A company official said in an interview last week that the state-run power firm had yet to identify sources of money to cover the loans.

The loans were secured at the height of an energy crisis in the early 1990s and were used to finance electricity generation and transmission projects, he said. "It is possible the $400 million that would be raised for Napocor through a bond issue would be used partly to pay for the loans," the source said.

Officials of the Power Sector and Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. are currently on a road-show in Europe and the United States for Napocor's bond flotation.

Psalm, which was created under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, is mandated to assume all of Napocor's obligations as of end-2000 and take over its disposable assets.

Psalm president Edgardo del Fonso said in an earlier interview the firm would issue the dollar-denominated bond to cover for Napocor's financial needs this year. The power firm needs $1 billion for the whole year.

# Islacom readies 'repackaging' of cell business

By Abigail L. Ho

ISLACOM Communications Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom Inc., has said it will be "repackaging" its wireless business by marketing under only one brand before the year ends.

Islacom chief operating officer Gil Genio told reporters last week that Islacom was already giving its mobile phone subscribers the option to switch to either Globe or the company's prepaid brand, "Touch Mobile."

"The process is yet to be completed. We've offered Islacom customers the opportunity to go to Touch Mobile or Globe. Eventually, within the year, all Islacom subscribers would transfer to either Globe or Touch Mobile," he said.

Islacom currently has an existing cellular service, the fairly new Touch Mobile brand and a landline network in the Visayas.

Genio stressed, however, that Islacom would maintain operations separate from its parent even if it would adopt only a single brand for its cellular service.

"We're going to have only one brand. Islacom will still be a separate company, but under only one brand, and that's Touch Mobile. It will be much like what we did with our landlines. Islaphone became Globelines in October last year," he said.

The cellular service provider is also evaluating the possibility of adding a postpaid plan to Touch Mobile.

# Sugar farmers seek release of ₱1.7-B fund

THE LOCAL sugar industry is asking the government to release around P1.7 billion worth of duties on sugar imported between 2000 and 2001 that should have gone to the agricultural competitiveness enhancement fund, or Acef.

Documents from the Sugar Regulatory Administration showed that of the P1.7 billion in duties and taxes on sugar imported by the National Food Authority, only P438 million were released to the Bureau of Customs. Another P828.9 million represented payments with the remarks "awaiting issuance of Saro (special allotment release order)," while P489.4 million had yet to be paid by the NFA.

Under Republic Act No. 8170, proceeds from the importation of the minimum access volume shall be deposited in a special account intended for Acef, a fund created to assist agricultural producers adversely affected by the liberalization of imports under the World Trade Organization's rules.

Acef is the only real "safety net" for agricultural producers, who have to compete in an uneven playing field with highly subsidized imported substitutes, since the fund is intended to finance projects that can improve the competitiveness and productivity of local farmers.

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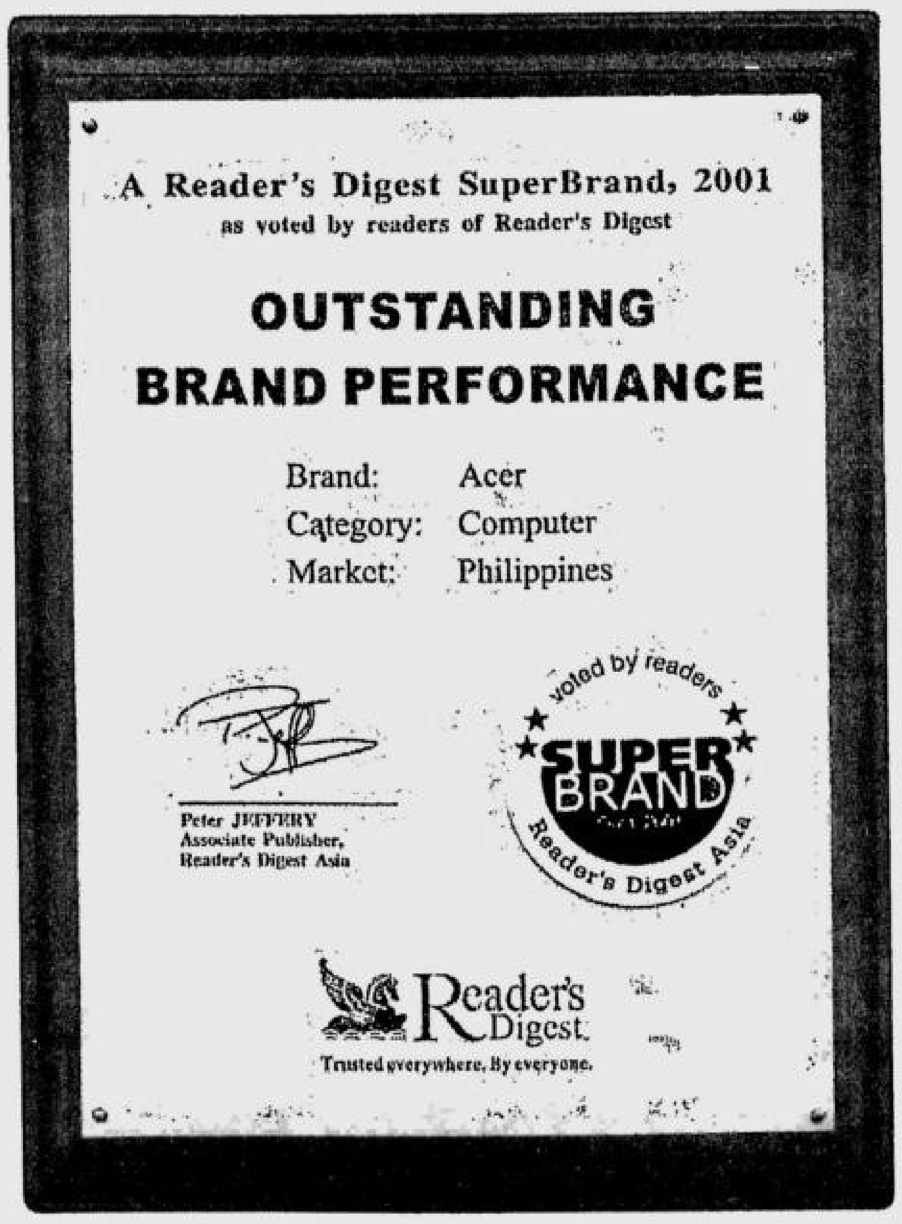

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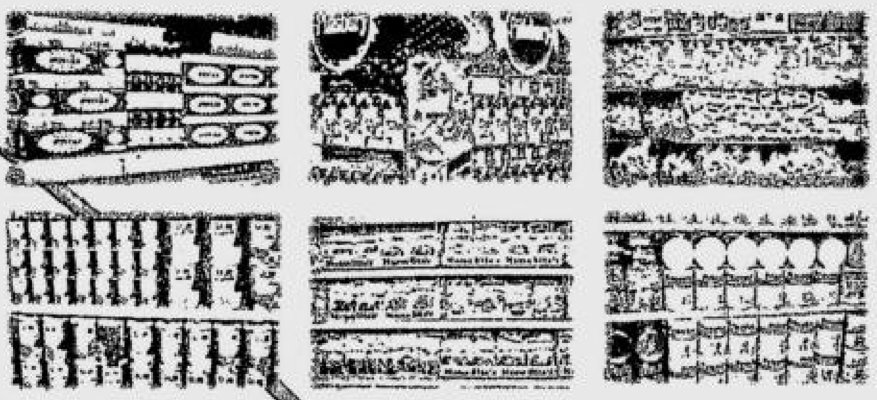

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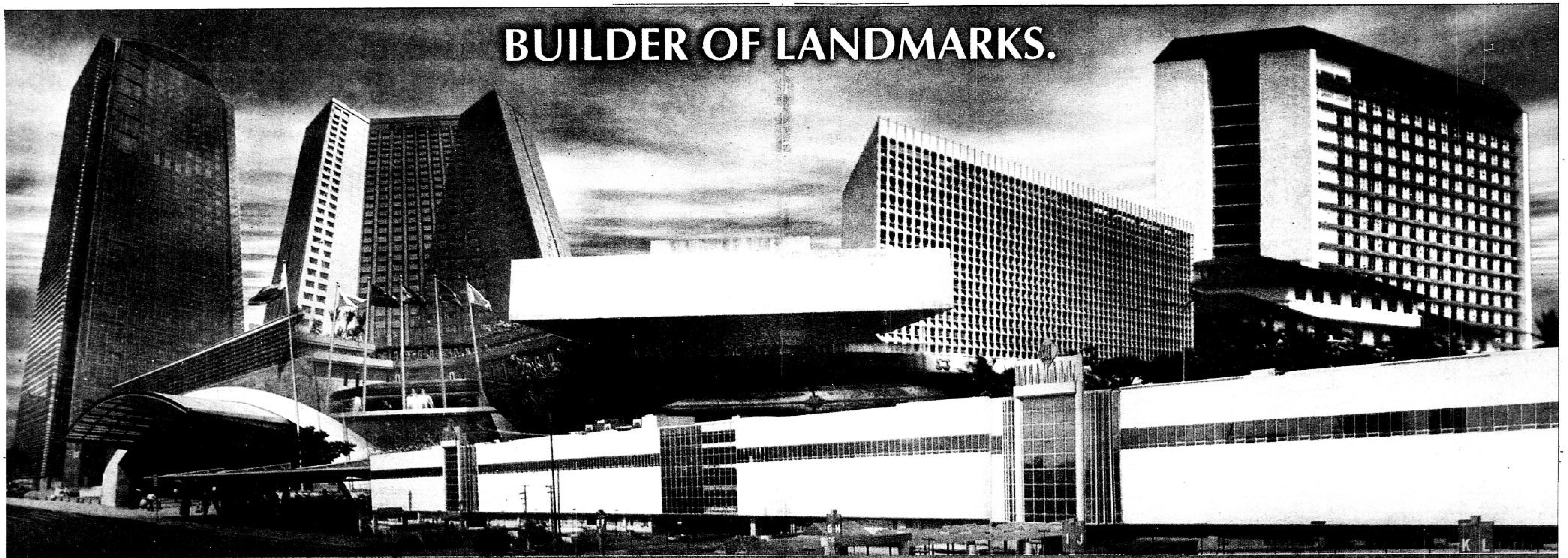

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# Globalization stirring fears for jobs, poverty

NEW YORK—Globalization's credibility as a positive force is gaining ground, but people fear it will hurt jobs, the environment and global poverty, according to a survey.

A total of 62 percent of 25,000 people surveyed said globalization was positive, according to a poll taken from October to December in 25 countries ranging from the United States to Nigeria.

The poll was released during a World Economic Forum gathering here of business, political and religious leaders.

"Positive views of globalization have grown over the past year, especially in North America and Europe," said the text of the survey, compiled from individual pollsters by Environics International.

In individual countries, however, the survey found a dearth of support for globalization in the battered economies of Argentina and Turkey.

In Argentina, 48 percent of people said globalization was negative against 39 percent saying it was positive, and in Turkey 61 percent were against globalization compared with just 27 percent in favor.

The overall world survey found globalization—defined in the poll as increased trade between countries—was expected to widen access to foreign markets and cheap products and improve quality of life.

But 46 percent of those questioned said it would harm job availability against 42 percent who said it would improve matters.

Globalization also would make poverty and homelessness worse, according to 45 percent of respondents, compared with 41 percent who believed it would make things better.

A total 47 percent said it would harm the environment, against 41 percent who said it would improve the environment.

"Almost one in two people overall," 46 percent, supported peaceful anti-globalization protests.

More than seven respondents in 10 said they would support paying one percent higher taxes if they were sure the money would go to improving the lives of the world's poor, the survey said.

"The public is still coming to judgment on important aspects of globalization," said Richard Samans, director of global issues at the World Economic Forum.

"While the globalization agenda has advanced its popular mandate over the past year, this research suggests it faces a number of challenges," he said in a statement.

Most of the national surveys had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent. *AFP*

# US jobless rate falls even as companies slash jobs

WASHINGTON—The US unemployment rate fell in January for the first time in eight months, but firms cut their payrolls by an unexpectedly large 89,000, signaling that an economic recovery may be slow to gather steam.

The Labor Department said on Friday that the jobless rate declined to 5.6 percent from a six-year high of 5.8 percent hit in December. It was the first time since May 2001 that the rate had fallen.

However, the main reason for the decline was an exodus of nearly 1 million Americans from the pool of those defined as being in the labor force. That can happen when a lot of people without jobs give up looking for work and are no longer counted among the "unemployed."

In addition, the payroll decrease—which was larger than the 27,000 drop expected by private economists—indicated the job market was still quite weak.

"I think we are in the process of a moderate upturn in economic growth, but the economy is not running away on us," said Lyle Gramley, consulting economist with the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Gramley referred to the decrease in the unemployment rate as a "fluke," as he and other economists put heavy emphasis on the payroll number as a gauge of the economy's path.

Partly offsetting the less-than-upbeat employment report, private surveys on manufacturing activity and consumer confidence released on Friday both showed clear improvement.

The Institute for Supply Management said its closely watched Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 49.9 in January, just shy of the key 50 mark that would signal expansion in the hard-hit factory sector. The index stood at 48.1 in December.

The final version of the University of Michigan consumer sentiment index surged to 93 from 88.8 in December, the fourth straight monthly rise.

Analysts said as a whole, Friday's batch of economic reports offered a mixed picture for the US economy, which entered a recession in March.

"The incoming data suggest an economic recovery, but there are still a few hurdles out there," said Christopher Wiegand, an economist with Salomon Smith Barney in New York. "The business sector is the main hurdle."

Earlier this week, the Fed left interest rates unchanged at 40-year lows and said the outlook for recovery was "more promising" but cautioned that there remained a question mark about business capital and household spending.

The 89,000 payrolls drop in January followed a 130,000 decline in December, which was originally reported as a milder 124,000 fall. Retail jobs grew 62,000, but employment in most of the other broad areas of the economy declined. Factory jobs fell 89,000 and construction payrolls slid by 54,000. *Reuters*

# Mixed economic data show US not yet out of recession

WASHINGTON—A mixed set of economic figures has shown that the US economy is struggling ahead but has not yet pulled out of the grip of recession, with the labor market still fragile, analysts say.

The Labor Department reported that the US unemployment rate fell to 5.6 percent in January from 5.8 in December, but that 89,000 jobs were lost.

While the fall in the jobless rate was a positive sign, economists were disappointed over the large number of jobs lost.

Mark Vitner of Wachovia Securities said the jobless rate fell because 587,000 people dropped out of the workforce.

The report "suggests that many job seekers are giving up or at least postponing their job search until economic conditions improve," he said. "That is not an encouraging sign for near-term economic prospects."

Vitner added that the drop in hours worked and lack of a gain in hourly earnings "mean production and income were relatively stagnant in January, which strongly suggests that the recession hasn't ended just yet."

Friday's data tempered some of the optimism over Wednesday's data showing the US economy grew slightly in the fourth quarter—at a 0.2-percent pace—despite widespread predictions of a contraction.

That and other signs of a rebound prompted the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates steady, ending a string of 11 rate cuts to help the flagging economy.

Melanie Jani, an economist at Salomon Smith Barney, was optimistic about a recovery despite the loss of jobs.

"The latest data continue to suggest that the economy is bottoming," Jani said. "The labor market appears to have stabilized, confidence is at a one-year high, while the worst appears to be over for the manufacturing sector in the context of an economy that is bottoming, one cannot expect employment to lead."

Other data released Friday also gave analysts a mixed picture.

The Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index—a key sign of industrial activity—rose to 49.9 in January from a revised 48.1 in December.

Any figure below 50 suggests declining activity while a higher figure suggests expansion, but ISM chair Norbert Ore said the report showed improvement in manufacturing and an overall economy that was likely growing.

"The overall picture shows improvement in manufacturing activity during the month of January," said Ore. "While the manufacturing decline is now in its 18th month, some industries are starting to show significant signs of recovery as both new orders and new export orders are improving." *AFP*

# UAL posts biggest loss ever

CHICAGO—UAL Corp., the No. 2 US carrier and parent of United Airlines, on Friday posted a record 2001 net loss of $2.1 billion, the worst ever in the airline industry, joining the parade of carriers hurt by the Sept. 11 attacks and a drop-off in lucrative business travel.

UAL's yearly loss, which amounted to $40.04 per share, surpassed the $957 million it lost in 1992, according to spokesperson Joe Hopkins. The shortfall also outpaced the net $1.7-billion 2001 loss at bigger rival AMR Corp. and the $2-billion net loss at smaller US Airways Group Inc.

UAL's 2001 loss from operations was $3.7 billion.

Despite speculation in the industry that the 75-year-old airline will have to file for bankruptcy protection unless it gets wage or work-rule concessions, executives steadfastly refused to comment on the possibility. They pointed to $2.6 billion cash on hand at year-end and an aircraft financing deal completed this week.

"While our financial results this quarter reflect a decline in both business and leisure travel, during the fourth quarter we saw signs that air travel is slowly beginning to recover," UAL chair and chief executive Jack Creighton said in a statement.

He took over in October after the previous CEO, James Goodwin, was ousted when machinists complained about his statement the airline would "perish" unless losses stopped.

A spokesperson said the carrier could apply for federal loan guarantees under the $15-billion federal bailout package enacted after the Sept. 11 attacks as part of an overall plan to turn the airline around.

UAL now has about 81,000 employees, laying off roughly a fifth of its workforce since the deadly attacks on New York and Washington. It cut out 23 percent of its flight schedule to cope with the sudden downturn in demand for tickets.

Despite the layoffs and losses, UAL said it was pressing ahead with a goal to secure outside investors for its Avolar fractional business jet unit, which some employees criticized. Fractional programs sell shares of planes to wealthy individuals and corporations.

According to John Weber, vice president at consulting firm BACK Aviation Solutions, the record loss for any single airline before last year was a net loss of $1.23 billion reported by Continental Airlines in 1990.

UAL reported a fourth-quarter net loss of $308 million compared with a net loss of $71 million a year ago. Before special items such as federal cash aid that followed the attacks on the United States, the company lost $640 million in the quarter. Revenues tumbled by 40 percent.

The airline also forecast an unspecified "significant loss" in the first quarter, despite some encouraging trends.

The top eight US airlines have now posted a combined fourth-quarter net loss of $3.2 billion, including a $64-million profit at trend-bucking Southwest Airlines Co.

In a conference call, United—heavily reliant on corporate travel—said it had a high enough proportion of business travelers, but the fares they were paying were too low.

United president Rono Dutta said yields for business travel, a measure of fares after accounting for corporate and other discounts, were down about 20 percent from a year ago.

Weak business travel has been a problem for airlines for some time now, hurting them even before the suicide hijackings of four jetliners hurled the industry into a historic crisis. *Reuters*

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# Goodyear closes Marikina Plant

AKRON—Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. said on Friday it closed one of its plants in the Philippines, which employed 175 people, because of over capacity and the softening of market demand.

The factory at Marikina ceased production on Friday. It made approximately 1,200 tires a day, and at its peak in 1999, employed more than 400 workers.

Goodyear said that some workers might be transferred to another plant, while employees who leave the company will receive a compensation package.

"Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of our people and support from the local community, we have been unable to make the plant viable," said Goodyear Asia Region tire manufacturing director Harold Smith.

"The Philippines tire market has not grown at the rate originally forecast and the market has become highly competitive with a flood of low-cost imports from China and Southeast Asia." **Reuters**

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## Mrs. Esther Tan : The Woman Behind Sun Life Prosperity Funds

When Sun Life Financial decided some twenty-one months ago that the market was ripe for the introduction of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds, under the management of Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc., there was no doubt that Mrs. Esther C. Tan should be at the helm of this endeavor.

Mrs. Esther Tan joined the Sun Life Financial family as a field representative. While not exactly a stranger to the insurance industry then, having been running a non-life insurance brokerage firm owned by their family, she can be considered at that time to be a babe in the woods in the life insurance business. Mrs. Tan considers her entry into the Sun Life insurance sales force as her initiation to what she considered truly "serious work". Mrs. Tan literally grew with Sun Life Financial. When she entered the fold in 1981, the total premium income for that year was P 91.6M. According to the most recent figures, the total premium income for the year 2001 is P 5.8B. Through those 20 years, both the career of Mrs. Tan within the Sun Life organization, and the business of Sun Life Financial grew by leaps and bounds.

When Sun Life Financial entered the mutual fund industry, Mrs. Esther Tan was appointed Chairperson of the Board of Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc. (SLAMC), the investment manager and distributor of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds. True to her impeccable track record, she patiently guided the early months of SLAMC's existence. And deliver she did. After only 21 months of operations, the Sun Life Prosperity Funds already had P1.1 Billion of assets under management by end of December 2001. The Sun Life Prosperity Funds is a family of mutual funds composed of the Sun Life Prosperity Bond Fund, Sun Life Prosperity Philippine Equity Fund and the Sun Life Prosperity Balanced Fund. A mutual fund is an investment company which pools investments of individuals and institutions under the expert management of professional fund managers. Mutual funds have been around since the early '60s but is not yet widely known nor understood by the investing public.

In the early years of mutual funds in the Philippines, quite a number of investors were burned by mutual fund offerings which have gone sour. According to Mrs. Tan, people are gun-shy about mutual funds because of lack of awareness or the bad experience they may have had with it previously. "When we entered the picture in April 2000, we gave it (the mutual fund product) a new lease on life. Through regular advertisement and a continuous program to educate the public, people started paying attention. That is a very good sign."

The continued growth of the mutual fund industry however largely depends on further educating the investors about mutual funds, upgrading their level of investment sophistication and changing their saving paradigm. Mrs. Tan believes that, "in due course, we know that it (mutual funds) will take off. People nowadays are more informed and the

Mrs. Esther Tan
Chairperson of Sun Life Asset Management Company, Inc.

younger generations like to look at other types of investments so that they can maximize their returns. Our habit (as Filipinos) has always been spend (first) and then save. So if we can change that to save first and then spend, there is great opportunity in store for us."

In her view, the Sun Life Prosperity Funds have certain advantages investors would do well to avail of. These advantages are:

1. Sun Life Financial's strength and reputation. According to Mrs. Tan, "We have a very good brand in Sun Life." She adds, "people trust Sun Life and we guard it very zealously".
2. Good people. Mrs. Tan proudly cites the fact that they have the most number of chartered financial analysts and financial planners of all mutual funds in the country, despite the fact that they have been in business for less than two years. Mrs.Tan is even proud to add that "we are known for our customer-focused orientation and the expertise of our planners and analysts."
3. Mrs. Tan also gives as an advantage the fact that, "our funds are very unique in the sense that we are the only one in the country that allows transferability within the family of funds. This gives a lot of flexibility for our investors in a rapidly changing market place."
4. Lastly, she says that investors are afforded a fair degree of liquidity in as much as they are allowed to redeem their shares by simply surrendering them within any business day.

Another important asset of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds are their professional managers, who are very judicious in choosing where and how to invest the money of the shareholders. As Mrs. Tan says, "we don't want to gamble with our investors' money. Our fund managers adhere to sound investment principles and strategies geared toward optimizing returns within the prevailing market environment".

Mrs. Tan envisions that the Sun Life Prosperity Funds will play a significant role, not only in the growth of the mutual funds industry but also in ensuring the financial security of Filipinos. Her vision is "Financial Freedom for Filipinos!". "We'd like our fellow Filipinos to have financial independence , in the sense that they won't have to depend on their relatives or their children in their old age. Before people would think 'di bale marami naman ang anak ko, eh. Instead, why don't we try to be financially independent, plan for it now, and not be a burden to others. Mutual funds is one vehicle to achieve that, for as long as you save ahead."

Phenomenal is the only way to describe the performance of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds. Phenomenal still is the way to describe the woman who made this performance a reality.

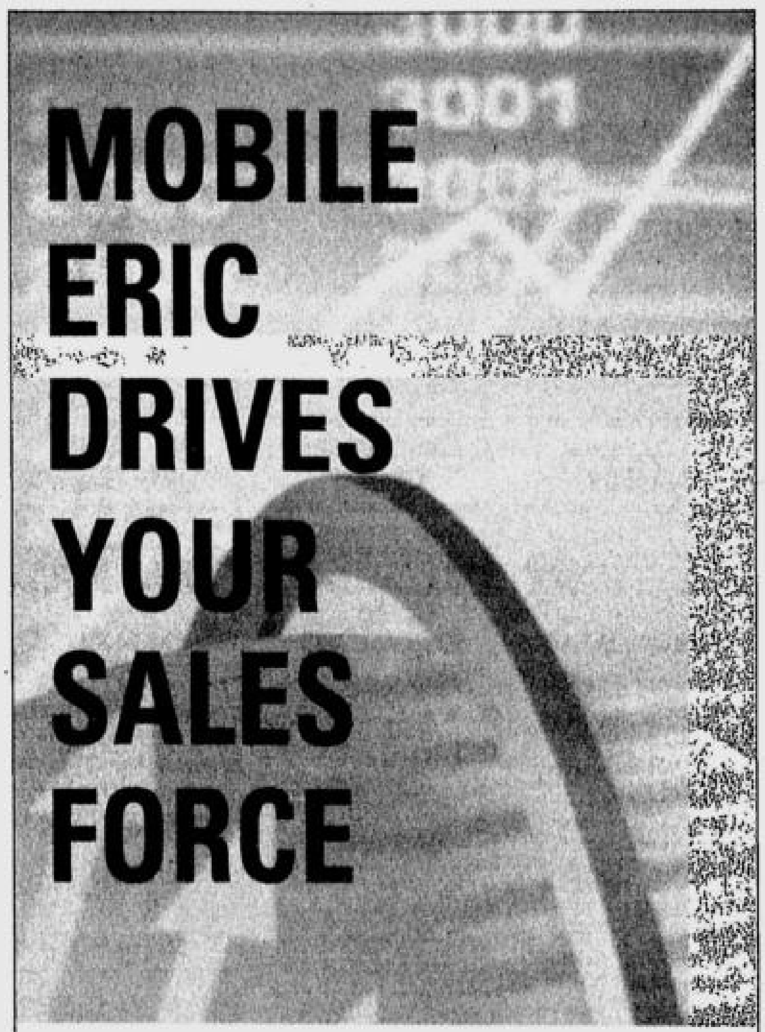
When asked what principles she abides by to guide her towards success, she cites the following basics: always strive for excellence; have the "it can be done" attitude; lead by example. To top it off, she adds, "the sense of urgency is important in gettting things done. Have the attitude of *if it can be done today why wait until tomorrow.*" Surprisingly, however, she does not consider herself a workaholic. For her, she finds the need for some down time and relaxation equally important.

One would think that after successfully landing her career to be where she is now, she would be tempted to simply rest on her laurels and enjoy the fruits of her labor. On the contrary, the dream to be "the pre-eminent company" gets her up from bed everyday. "For Sun Life, we are not there yet. We still have a long way to go. We have to keep tracking, we have to keep moving forward and upward. We have to continue to be creative and innovative. Otherwise, we would become stale and be left behind by our competitors."

It is a business truism, however, that good working habits and principles do not necessarily result to success. Of equal importance is the market's acceptance of the product. This is especially true if the product requires people to invest their hard-earned money in an instrument with variable returns in the hope that the money they invested will grow substantially in the future.

It is indeed rare in today's world for our business leaders to look beyond their bottom lines and to see how they and their companies impact the economy as a whole and the Filipino in particular. Mrs. Tan and the Sun Life Prosperity Funds are some of the best examples of this rare trait. Over a year ago, while brainstorming what logo they should adopt as a company, she chose to look at the tree for inspiration, for it symbolizes life, growth, prosperity and abundance. According to Mrs. Tan, "that's the way we see your money growing with us through time". With a financially sound company under the guidance of a remarkable woman to serve as the roots for this investment tree, the Filipino is ensured that his investment will grow and prosper for years and years to come.

*For more information on the Sun Life Prosperity Funds, call the experts at* ***849-9999.***



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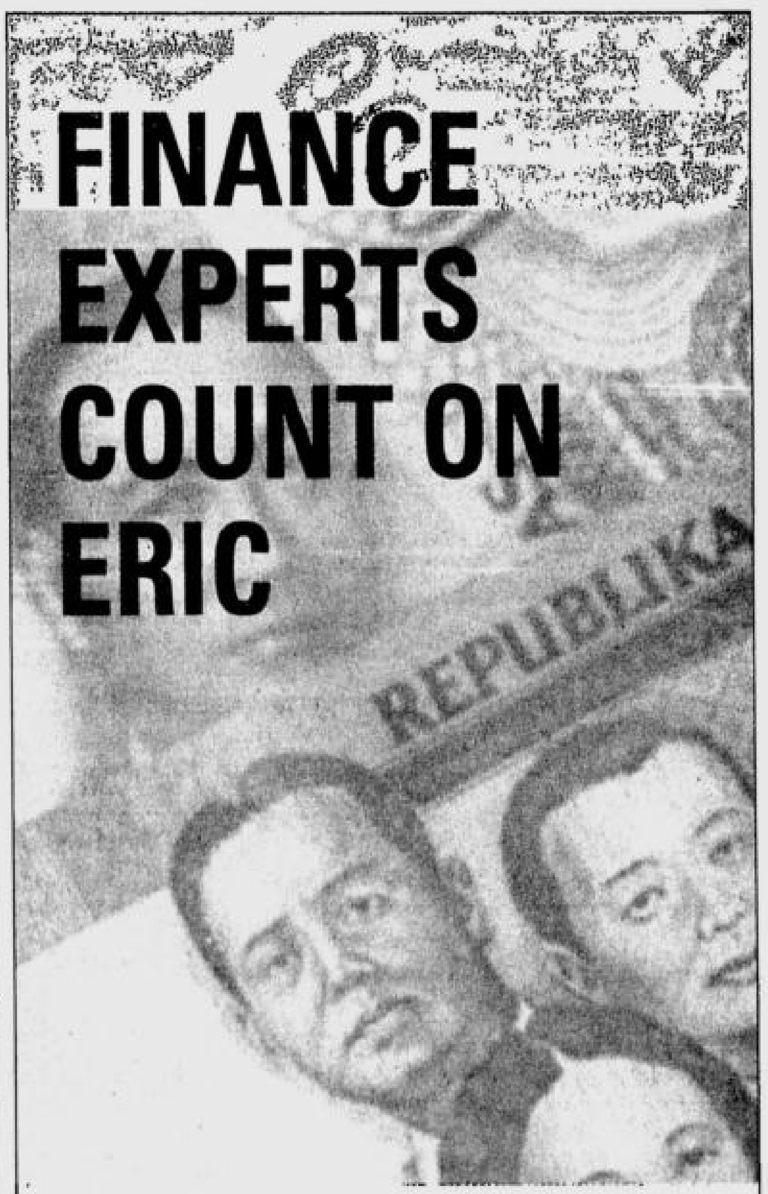

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Pasay City, Philippines

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that IWG PHILIPPINES, INC. (IWG) with plant site at the Mactan Economic Zone II - Special Economic Zone (MEZ II-SEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for PIONEER STATUS to be granted to its production of cross-linked polyethylene coated automotive wire, based on newness of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA [Tel. Nos. 510-29-47 and 551-34-57; and telefax 551-3456].

(Sgd.) LILIA B. DE LIMA
*Director General*

(PDI--Feb. 4, 2002)

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## TENDER/AUCTION

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
**National Irrigation Administration**
**Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project Stage I**
**Midsayap, Cotabato**
**Telefax No. (06422) 98453**

January 29, 2002

### INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID (BID NO. MMIPL-C-22)

The National Irrigation Administration hereby invites interested contractors to apply for pre-qualification and to participate in the sealed bidding of the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project for the construction of the following canals at Upper Malitubog Service Area located in Pikit, Cotabato under the Local Minor Contract scheme:

| Package No. | Name of Canal | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|---|
| I. | RMC-1 Sta. 2+660.33-3+700.33 | P19,674,250.21 |
| II. | RMC-1 Sta. 3+700.33-3+953.66 & Lateral A Station 0+000-3+180 | P19,287,234.71 |
| III. | Lateral A Sta. 3+180-7+277.61 & Lateral A-1 Station 0+000-2+980 | P19,749,761.87 |
| IV. | RMC-1 Sta. 3+953.66-5+537.66 & Lateral B Station 0+000-0+600 | P19,761,277.79 |
| V. | RMC-1 Sta. 5+537.66-7+837.66 & Lateral C Station 0+000-2+161.30 | P19,527,892.94 |
| VI. | RMC-1 Sta. 7+837.66-9+157.66 & Lateral D Station 0+000-1+405 | P19,715,051.78 |
| VII. | RMC-1 Sta. 9+157.66-9+717.66 | P19,192,854.65 |
| VIII. | RMC-1 Sta. 9+717.66-10+537.66 | P19,677,150.49 |
| IX. | RMC-1 Sta. 10+537.66-10+937.66 | P19,726,751.86 |
| X. | RMC-1 Sta, 10+937.66-11+917.66 | P19,860,488.87 |

The application for pre-qualification is open to accredited and duly registered contractors with at least Medium "B" category in Irrigation and Flood Control classification. Pre-qualification forms are available at NIA MMIP Office, Midsayap, Cotabato upon payment of non-refundable amount of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting **February 4, 2002.**

Deadline for submission of accomplished pre-qualification forms shall be at 5:00 p.m. on **February 15, 2002** at NIA MMIP Office. Bid documents shall be available to pre-qualified bidders upon payment of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) per copy from **February 25, 2002** to **March 1, 2002** at the PBAC Technical Secretariat of same office.

Pre-bidding Conference regarding this contract will be held on **March 12, 2002** at 10:30 a.m. at the Conference Room of Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project, Midsayap, Cotabato. Submission and opening of bids will be held on **March 19, 2002** at 10:30 a.m. at the same address.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or any part thereof, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Agency.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines was able to secure a loan, Loan No. PH-P112, from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) formerly Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan to finance the construction of Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project.

(Sgd.) NOLDIN S. OYOD
*OIC/Project Manager*

(PDI - January 30, Feb. 4 & 8, 2002)

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*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes*
*in Me will live, eventhough he dies; and whoever*
*believes in Me will never die.*
*John 11:25-26*

## GEORGE G. GOLEZ

*Peacefully joined his Creator on January 22, 2002*
*in San Francisco, California, USA.*

His beloved wife **Elena Jison Golez**;
children **Francesca, Lillian, Cecilia, Isabel**;
and grandson **Enrico**.

His brothers **Cotic, Jimmy, Jan, Eric,**
**Francis** and sister **Pia**,

request the reader to pray for the eternal repose
of his soul.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated in Manila
on Wednesday, February 6, 2002 at the
Sanctuario de San Antonio Church,
Forbes Park, Makati City at 7:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 10, 2002
in Silay City, Negros Occidental.

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*So dearly missed,*
*So lovingly remembered*

of

On the **Second Death Anniversary**

## ANDREA ILAO RODRIGUEZ

*who joined her Creator on February 5, 2000*

We find strength and we are humbly grateful to God in knowing that Inay touched so many lives in her concern for others. She will continue living in our hearts and through the lives we lead as testament to her legacy of Love.

We invite relatives and friends to remember her in prayers.

Masses shall be offered and celebrated at the following churches on February 1 to 5, 2002.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Nasugbu Mouseleum Catholic Cemetery** | February 5, 2002 | Rosary 4:00 PM |
| Nasugbu, Batangas | | |
| **Johndel Beach Resort** | February 5, 2002 | Mass 5:30 PM |
| Nasugbu, Batangas | | |
| **St. Francis Javier Church** | February 5, 2002 | 6:00 AM |
| Nasugbu, Batangas | | 5:30 PM |
| **Nuestra Señora del Pilar** | February 1, 2002 | 5:00 PM |
| Central Nasugbu, Batangas | February 2, 2002 | 5:00 PM |
| | February 3, 2002 | 8:15 AM |
| **San Juan Bautista Church** | February 5, 2002 | 5:00 PM |
| Lian, Batangas | | |
| **Immaculate Concepcion Church** | February 5, 2002 | 6:30 AM |
| Balayan, Batangas | | 5:15 PM |
| **San Sebastian Cathedral Church** | February 5, 2002 | 7:00 AM |
| Lipa City | | |
| **St. Anthony Church** | January 27, 2002 | 6:30 AM |
| Bolbok, Lipa City | February 4, 2002 | 6:30 PM |
| **Our Lady of the Airways Parish** | February 4, 2002 | 6:00 PM |
| NAIA, Pasay City | February 5, 2002 | 6:00 PM |
| **St. Andrew Parish** | February 4, 2002 | 6:00 PM |
| La Huerta, Parañaque City | February 5, 2002 | 6:00 PM |
| **St. Joseph Parish Church** | February 4, 2002 | 6:30 PM |
| Tambo, Parañaque City | February 5, 2002 | 6:00 PM |
| **Our Lady of Beautiful Love** | February 5, 2002 | 6:00 AM |
| **Mother of Perpetual Help** | February 4, 2002 | 5:30 AM |
| Baclaran | February 5, 2002 | 5:30 AM |
| **Sto. Niño Parish Church** | Every Monday - Saturday | 6:00 PM |
| **Sto. Niño Parañaque City** | Every Sundays | 8:00 AM |
| **Our Lady of Guadalupe** | February 2, 2002 | 6:00 PM |
| Concorde Village, Parañaque City | | |
| **Sts. Peter & St. Paul Parish** | February 5, 2002 | 6:00 AM |
| Poblacion, Makati City | | 7:00 AM |
| | | 6:30 PM |
| **Mary, Mother of God Parish** | February 3, 2002 | 7:00 AM |
| Bayanan, Muntinlupa City | February 5, 2002 | 6:30 PM |
| **St. Anthony's Church** | February 5, 2002 | 7:00 AM |
| Tamuning, Guam | February 5, 2002 | 7:00 PM |
| **San Vicente/San Roke Church** | February 5, 2002 | 6:00 PM |
| Barrigada, Guam | | |
| **Sta. Barbara Church** | February 5, 2002 | 7:00 PM |
| Dededo, Guam | | |
| **St. Victor's Catholic Church** | February 5, 2002 | 8:00 AM |
| San Jose, California | | |
| **St. John's Catholic Church** | February 4, 2002 | 8:30 AM |
| San Lorenzo, California | | |
| **St. Joachim Catholic Church** | February 5, 2002 | 7:00 AM |
| 21250 Hesperian Boulevard | | |
| Hayward, Ca. 94541 | | |

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*can really pass away.....*

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## Carlos "Titus" B. Perez

**President, Iloilo Football Association**
**Manager Barotac Nuevo Go-For-Goal Team**
**Sanggunian Bayan Member**

Of Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo
*passed away in the Grace of our Lord on*
*February 2, 2002 at the age of 60.*

His bereaved wife **Lorna** and son **Carlo**; his mother **Luisa**; siblings **Monsignor Enrique, Carmen, Luis**, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and in-laws request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at his residence in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo. Interment will be on Sunday, February 10, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. in the family mausoleum in Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo.

---

## VICENTE CHUIDIAN ALBERT

*Passed away peacefully in the Grace*
*of our Lord on February 2, 2002*
*at the age of 52.*

His wife **Bebot**; children **Francis, Jonathan, Samantha, Hannah** and **Rebecca**; mother **Diding**; brothers and sisters **Illa, Gina, Bettina, Freddy, Jaime, Joey** and **Inez** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be at 8:00 a.m., February 4, 2002 at Christ the king Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

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In Loving Memory of

## TERESA BRETAÑA BUENDIA

**Born August 27, 1914**

*Peacefully joined her Creator on January 23, 2002.*

She is survived by her children **Letty Angelan, Socorro & Jim Daskal, Rogelio & Leonida, Victor & Linda, Benjamin & Kleanthe, Antonio & Lida, Rita & Jun Agatep, Josefa & Bob Lash**; sister **Luisa Perez**; brothers **Arsenio, Isidro & Ernesto**; grandchildren & great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 9, 2002 at Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo.

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The Trustees, Members, and Staff
of
**The Manila Club**
Condole deeply with the Family of

## TANG KOO
## ("Shorty")

*who died in California on 5 August 2001*
*aged eighty-nine.*

He managed The Manila Club from 1936 to 1976
and was elected to Honorary Membership in 1987.

---

*Message of Thanks*

Our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who condoled with us in our time of bereavement. Most of all, we thank you for sharing with Daddy the joy of life.

From the family of the late

## RUPERTO B. ROMAN

Children **Lorna, Noemi & Boy Domingo,**
**Nancy, Jenny & Gerry Amisola**

Brother & sister-in-law **Totoy & Annie Roman**

Grandchildren **Chino, Riza, Achiz & Tea.**

# People, Events & Products

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa, Editor

## Globe Handyphone contest offers winnings every hour, P3-M grand prize

STARTING Jan. 15 Globe Handyphone – the cellular phone service of Globe Telecom -- is offering its over 4 million subscribers nationwide a major treat that is hard to resist with its fun and thrilling TXTciting Word of the Day contest. With over P10 million worth of prizes to be given away, Globe's TXTciting contest is the country's biggest texting contest ever.

The contest is both easy and enjoyable. Everyday, Globe Handyphone will be posting a scrambled "mystery word of the day" in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the Philippine Star and online at www.myglobe.com.ph. A new "word of the day" will be posted every day for the subscribers to solve. A clue will also accompany each mystery word of the day to help out the subscribers in getting the right answers.

Globe Handyphone subscribers can also use their Globe Handyphones to get the word of the day. By texting TXTCITING to 2255, Globe users can get the word of day, the clue for the word and the prize that can be won for the hour.

Globe subscribers, in addition, can also find out the word for the day in leading radio stations every hour. In Metro Manila, these stations are Star FM 102.7, Campus Radio 97.1, DWTM 89.9, Joey 92.3, DZMM 630, DWRR 101.9, Yes FM, 101.1, RX 93.1 and Crossover 105.1. Cebu radio listeners can tune in to DYMY 95.5, Hot FM 91.5, Y101 99.5, Energy 90.7 and DYHP 612. Listeners in Lucena can tune in to DWLW 100.7 and DWNG 97.5.

Globe Handyphone subscribers can play the game by figuring out what the scrambled word means and texting their answers to 2255 using the following message format: <correct answer for word of the day> < name of subscriber> <subscriber's address> (example: If the scrambled word for the day is "GLOEB", all the subscriber needs to do is to text GLOBE ANNA CRUZ 174 DAO ST., MAKATI CITY to 2255)

The TXTciting contest runs until Feb. 28 and each day, Globe Handyphone subscribers can participate by texting in their answers.

The contest lets subscribers win major prizes every hour during its daily draws of texted-in entries from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hourly winners can win the latest cellphone models and cash prizes. Cellphones that can be won include the Nokia 6210, Nokia 8250, Nokia 8850, Nokia 8310 and Nokia 9210. Cash prizes are P10,000, P20,000, P50,000 and P100,000.

Participants can win more than once. Even if they have won the prize for the previous hour, they can still win prizes in the next succeeding hours of the word of the day contest.

In addition to the hourly prizes, the TXTciting contest gives Globe Handyphone subscribers the chance to win the grand prize of P3 million in cash. The P3 million will be up for grabs on the final hour of the promo, where the winner will be picked from all qualified entries sent from the start of the contest. This means that entries that don't win in the hourly draws are included in the grand draw.

The cost per text to get a chance to win the prizes is only P2.50 for prepaid and P2 for plan subscribers. Globe Handyphone subscribers can text in any number of entries every day. The more entries they send, the higher their chances of winning in both the hourly draws and in the grand draw of the promo where they can win P3 million. Lucky winners will get an advisory from Globe Handyphone's official contest PrizeLine, 0917-897-0077.

**NFA, PHILFOODEX DISCUSS GLORIA'S STORE**

NFA administrator Tony Abad (second from left) discusses with Philfoodex president Jesus T. Tanchanco the benefits of Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera rolling stores. The two forged a memorandum of agreement allowing Philfoodex to operate TGL rolling stores as directed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Abad and Tanchanco are joined by (left), NFA assistant administrator Jessup P. Navarro and Armi G. Pajarito, executive director of Philfoodex. NFA rice, sugar and other commodities shall be sold at affordable prices from these TGL stores.

**LIVE PEDIA TALK HOSTS**

'Mommy Academy', mother's television consultant (Saturdays, 11 a.m. at ABC 5) recently conducted Pedia Talk Live, a free interactive seminar at the Hotel Intercontinental with authorities in child care as guest lecturers – Dr. Ma. Teresa Gustilo-Villasor, Makati Med chief clinical psychologist; Dr. Isabel Avanceña-Trapaga, pediatrician; Pia Cayetano-Sebastian, baby specialty store operator; Chiqui Brosas-Hahn, US-trained propagator of natural delivery and breastfeeding. Topics discussed were ways to spot a gifted child; the importance of knowing the real educational value of toys, and child discipline. Hosting the event was 'Mommy Academy' regular host Chiqui Roa-Puno. Shown (left) is Chiqui Brosas-Hahn, guest lecturer and Chiqui Roa-Puno, 'Mommy Academy' host.

**UP TRIBUTE TO DONORS AND PARTNERS**

The University of the Philippines recently hosted a dinner tribute for numerous donors and partners for supporting the university in upholding academic excellence. Some 80 corporate, institutional and private citizens were recognized for donating to the university's modernization projects, professorial chairs, faculty grants and scholarships. Shown is UP president Dr. Francisco Nemenzo (left) and vice president for academic affairs Ma. Serena I. Diokno with Intel Philippines Marketing Inc. representative Rosario Ventura for the company's support of UP modernization projects.

**CONSTRUCTION VERTICAL'S E-PARTNER**

The country's premiere B2B e-commerce hub, BayanTrade, is the e-commerce partner of the Construction Vertical of the Philippines – myCVP.com. CVP is an alliance of six major players in the contruction industry: Ayala Land Inc., D.M. Consunji, EEI Corp., Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., Greenfield Development Corp. and SM eVentures Inc. In the recently held myCVP.com launch, BayanTrade CEO Carol Carreon signed an agreement with the members of CVP headed by Fernando Zobel de Ayala (third from left). According to Carreon (shown left), a vertical portal is a gateway dedicated to a particular industry employed for the supply and purchase of direct materials used by industry players.

**STI PREP SCHOOL JOINS MOMMY ACADEMY**

STI Prep School recently took part in a forum on children hosted by ABC 5's Mommy Academy at the Intercon. The event was attended by moms and pediatricians and tackled the importance of creating a high-powered learning environment for children which STI Prep School is getting known for. As a preparatory school that makes use of technology as a vital tool in learning, STI Prep School integrates technology-driven methods with proven teaching techniques using their formula IQ+EQ+TQ=Child of the Future, Today! STI Prep School, which has seven branches around Metro Manila, is a member of the STI Education Services Group.

## Aromatherapy Oxygen Bar opens at SM Megamall

SAY GOODBYE to coffee and tea because the Aromatherapy Oxygen Bar is opening its second branch at SM Megamall to provide weary Metro Manilans an alternative, albeit more effective way of coping with the stresses of urban life.

The country's first aromatherapy oxygen bar was recently inaugurated by Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste at the Aromatherapy Center at the second floor of Garden Square Building, Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center, Makati City.

A brainchild of Richarest G. Velasco, daughter of Filipino aromatherapist pioneer Madeleine G. Velasco, the oxygen bar, like its counterparts in Europe and America, is designed to give clients a quick supply of 99 percent pure oxygen to make up for the depletion of oxygen in the atmosphere caused by pollution.

"According to a recent study commissioned by the Asian Development Bank, next to Mexico City, Metro Manila is the worst polluted city in the world and at such level of environmental degradation, it is difficult to find a source of clean and pure oxygen," said Velasco.

Velasco asserted that a 20-minute treatment at the oxygen bar would provide the same amount of fresh air that a person would receive if he were to sit in an untouched forest, and a breath of such unpolluted pure oxygen does wonders to the body, mind and soul.

The advent of oxygen therapy stems from the findings of Dr. Otto Warburg, twice a Nobel Prize Laureate, who proved that cancer cannot grow in a high-oxygen environment. His research revealed that when a cell is denied 60 percent of its normal requirement of oxygen, it becomes susceptible to cancer. Hence, the greater the oxygen levels in a human body, the more resistant it becomes to viruses and harmful bacteria.

"The oxygen bar is located right at the premises of the Aromatherapy Center at the 5th floor of Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, as we want to ensure a holistic treatment for our clients. Depending on their condition, clients can choose from a menu of aromatherapy blends to complement the therapeutic benefits of the oxygen intake. Furthermore, each oxygen session includes a wonderfully relaxing massage to ensure clients get total stress relief," added Velasco.

For an appointment, call the Aromatherapy Center at 637-5411 to 12 or 812-9002.

## Bombo Radyo sets attendance record in Iloilo

BOMBO RADYO Philippines had proven once again that it is the No. 1 radio network in the country with its record-setting audience attendance in the recently held "Handog ng Bombo Radyo at Star FM sa Dinagyang Free Concert/T-shirt". An estimated 50,000 spectators jammed the Iloilo Sports Complex last Jan. 26 to watch the free concert, a tribute of Bombo Radyo and Star FM to the Dinagyang Festivities.

Iloilo Mayor Jerry Treñas couldn't hide his surprise in the capability of the Network to "fill to the rafters the entire grandstand of the Iloilo Sports Complex." He said this was the first time the complex was filled up like this. Bombo Radyo Philippines has lined up a series of free concerts/T-shirts throughout the year to add more color to major festivities in the country. Up next is "Handog ng Bombo Radyo and Star FM sa Panagbenga in Baguio City."

**GETTING CHARGED WITH TANG**

Kraft Foods Philippines, the maker of Hi-Nutrition Tang Orange now charged with calcium, recently opened the Tang Orange Playworld, a fun-charged play area for active kids, at the Ayala Town Center, Glorietta and SM Megamall. Present at the ribbon-cutting rites were (from left) Ogilvy events director Owen Bobadilla, Kraft Foods Phils. marketing director Cathy Santamaria, Kraft Foods Phils. president and general manager Ferdinand de la Cruz, Ogilvy group managing director Bob Hekkelman and Kraft Foods Phils. marketing manager Jo Garde.

**ANOTHER PAYMENT FACILITY FOR PHILAM PLANS**

Philam Plans senior vice president and head of marketing Luie Dy Buncio, president and CEO Eliseo Dizon Jr., and Equitable Credit Card senior executive vice president Eugenio Hernando sign a memorandum of agreement making Equitable Credit Card another payment facility for Philam Plans' products. Witnessing the contract signing are (standing, from left) Philam Plans alternative distribution vice president Gil Pestaño, Equitable Credit Card's first vice president for operations Claire Ann Yap and vice president for sales and marketing Ricardo Celestino.

**ASPAC PRESENTS AD AWARDS TO NOKIA**

Parikshit Bhasin, country general manager (fourth from left, back) and Menchu Ambrosio, marketing manager (fourth from left, front) of Nokia Mobile Phones Phils., cheer on their agency, Aspac Advertising, the Challenger Agency, for winning Platinum for its Nokia TV ad 'Car' voted as the best in TV/cinema at the 17th Advertising Congress Araw Awards. Presenting the awards to their client are Miguel Ramos, president (third from left, back) of Aspac Advertising and the creatives and accounts group behind the Nokia campaign. Also shown are the other awards won by Aspac for Nokia: gold for low budget TV production, silver for TV/cinema and silver for multi-media campaign.

**BLUE CRAB MEAT PRODUCER OPENS FACILITY**

**PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. (left) inaugurate the latest state-of-the-art Stellar Fisheries in Masbate. The company is one of the largest producers of pasteurized blue crabmeat in the Philippines. With them are Stellar Fisheries chair Raoul Perez and president Danny Sison.**

# Gov't unlikely to allow BIR to slash target by ₱5B

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE GOVERNMENT'S economic team said the Bureau of Internal Revenue's request to trim its collection target this year by P5 billion to P442 billion was made "too soon," as the country appeared to be on its way to a recovery.

"The budget has been approved, and it is really too early to talk about reducing targets," Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo said.

Bernardo added that economic growth, in terms of gross domestic product, hit 3.4 percent last year compared to a target of only 3.3 percent.

Topping most forecasts, domestic economic output grew by 3.4 percent from a year earlier to an inflation-adjusted P987.4 billion in calendar 2001.

Real GDP grew by 3.4 percent last year, surpassing forecasts of private analysts and multilateral agencies of less than 3 percent, as well as the government's own 3.3-percent target.

The government is sticking to its 2002 target of 4 to 4.5 percent as the US and European economies recover, tempering the impact of an expected dry spell this year.

Congress, meanwhile, has approved a national budget of P754.306 billion. The government is hoping to collect some P624.306 billion in tax revenues and fees to support this budget. It expects the BIR to account for the bulk of this figure with a collection target of at least P447 billion.

Bernardo said the BIR recently requested the government to trim its P16-billion revenue target from administrative reforms by P5 billion. "The sentiment is that they could reduce the revenue from reform measures, but the bottom line of P447 billion should be maintained," he said.

Last year, the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Council allowed the BIR to reduce its revenue target by P20 billion from P408 billion after the government reduced its GDP target to 3.3 percent from 3.8 percent. Bernardo said there was no sign that the DBCC would again cut its economic growth target of 4 to 4.5 percent this year on account of a stronger-than-expected growth last year. A one-percentage-point adjustment in the GDP target usually translates to a P5-billion impact on revenues.

The P16-billion reform package that the BIR wants to implement this year includes a P500-million revenue from the redefinition of taxes on motor vehicles, P800 million from the redefinition of the gross income tax being imposed by the country's economic zones, P3.5 billion from the planned improvement in the administration of excise taxes, and P500 million from the expansion of the large taxpayers unit.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### New Capwire debt plan

DEBT-RIDDEN Capitol Wireless Inc. is set to submit this month a revised debt restructuring plan to its creditors. The new plan will include a 10-year repayment schedule.

"We'll try to work within the framework that the banks want. By the middle of this month, we may be able to submit something. We're trying to satisfy the banks," Capwire senior vice president and chief finance officer Joel Aguilar told reporters last week.

He said Capwire could work within a 10-year repayment period, including interest payments. The total debt would also be converted into a single tranche instead of two that the company proposed two years ago.

Aguilar said by lumping the sum into a single tranche, there would have to be a "slide" in the original two- and three-year grace periods set to start next year. *Abigail L. Ho*

### Rehab of abandoned mines

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources is studying how to convert and rehabilitate 22 abandoned mines shut down due either to exhausted resources or bankruptcy.

The studies being conducted by Tetra Tech EM Inc. covers, among others, one iron, nine gold, four copper, three chromite and two pyrite mines, the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences said.

The gold and copper operations are those of Acoje Mining Co. Inc., Batong Buhay Gold Mines, Benguet Corp., Benguet Exploration Inc., Black Mountain Inc., CDCP, Consolidated Mines Inc., Hixbar Gold Mining, Surigao Consolidated Mining Co. Inc., United Paragon Mining Co. Inc., and Vulcan Industrial Mining Corp.

*Christine A. Gaylican*

### New Landbank credit

LAND Bank of the Philippines has opened a new credit window that rural banks may tap for re-lending to agriculture and micro-finance enterprises.

Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines president Nicolas Lim said Landbank had earmarked some P500 million that rural banks could use for their lending operations.

To avail of the loans, rural banks would have to post a risk-asset ratio of not less than 12 percent. Their past-due ratio should not exceed 25 percent, and they should be posting earnings for at least three consecutive years.

Last year, Landbank earmarked some P6 billion for the agriculture sector primarily for re-lending to farmers and small enterprises.

*Christine A. Gaylican*

### Suspend Nextel's license

CLAIMING that the US parent firm of Nextel Communications Philippines Inc. violated a provision of the Constitution that limits foreign ownership of public utilities to 40 percent, a member of a lawyers' group specializing in telecommunications has asked the National Telecommunications Commission to suspend Nextel Philippines' license.

In a 52-page complaint filed last week, lawyer Winston Abuyuan said Nextel Philippines, a digital trunk radio operator, "is duty-bound to comply with the Public Service Act and the limitation on foreign equity ownership required by the 1987 Constitution."

Abuyuan, a member of the Telecommunications Bar Association of the Philippines, said he had documents and testimonies that showed Nextel Philippines' "illegitimate and anomalous transactions."

### Investing in transmission

INVESTING in the National Transmission Corp. would be a good move for the country's big businesses as its being a natural monopoly assures profit, according to Transco president Asiscio Gonzaga.

Gonzaga said in an interview that profit was a given in a venture such as the one in power transmission, as there could only be one infrastructure system for it.

Industry experts explained that there could not be more than one transmission system because this would mean great and unnecessary costs.

On the other hand, Gonzaga noted that while Transco was a monopoly, profits would have a limit since the sector would be regulated.

"In any case, local interests would have to take part in Transco's privatization since transmission is a public utility," he said.

He pointed out that the Constitution restricted foreign participation in the operation of a public utility to 40 percent.

"I think foreign investors would have to team up with local players for this," he said.

*Ronnel W. Domingo*

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# RFM, Zuellig eye flour joint venture

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE CONCEPCION family's food and beverage group RFM Corp. is hatching a deal with Swiss conglomerate Zuellig Group N.A. Inc. to buy into its flour milling business, which will be spun off into a new joint-venture company.

INQUIRER sources disclosed that the widely diversified Zuellig Group—whose presence in the Philippines is mostly on the pharmaceutical industry—was exploring fresh opportunities in the local commodities business and keen on a partnership with RFM.

The sources said the negotiations between RFM and Zuellig were now on the valuation stage and moving toward a 50-50 joint venture.

In a separate interview, RFM president and CEO Jose Concepcion III confirmed his company's talks with the Zuellig group but stressed that the negotiations were yet to be wrapped up.

"We've had exploratory talks with Zuellig for a couple of months. We're still talking but nothing is final. Also, the talks pertain only to the commodities side of the business," Concepcion said.

He stressed that any venture with Zuellig would not include RFM's branded foods business.

RFM has earlier announced that it was planning to take in a new strategic partner to beef up its position in the flour milling industry, its traditional business that is being run only as a division within the company.

The revenue size of RFM's flour business is currently estimated at about P1.8 billion, representing a 14-percent market share in the local flour milling industry.

The sources said that while Zuellig was active in the distribution business in the Philippines, it was keen on forging a partnership with existing players in the flour-milling business, where the Swiss conglomerate likewise has some interests across the globe.

The Zuellig group evolved from a traditional trading house into a diversified global organization with interests in trading, manufacturing and services with operations in 15 countries across the Asia-Pacific. Its businesses include IT (information technology) services, insurance, pharmaceutical, marketing, manufacturing and distribution, feed and flour mills, luxury goods marketing and hygiene services.

The group established a foothold in the Philippines in 1939 through Zuellig Pharma, which focused exclusively on the pharmaceutical and healthcare markets. It now operates two local distribution companies, Zuellig Pharma Corp. and Metro Drug Inc. Over time, Zuellig Pharma branched out from its base in the Philippines to other countries in the region.

For its part, RFM started out as a flour-milling company before expanding into other businesses like food and beverage, real estate, banking and even semiconductors. In early 2001, it divested its interest in banking (Consumer Savings Bank) and semiconductors (PSi Technologies).

Early this year, it also closed the sale of profitable soft drink unit Cosmos Bottling Corp. to San Miguel Corp. With the sale of this crown jewel, RFM is under pressure to scout for new areas of growth even as it now enjoys a net cash position.

The deal eyed with Zuellig is part of RFM's strategy to bring in strategic investors to strengthen its remaining businesses.

RFM's property unit, Philippine Townships Inc., also recently signed a 50-50 joint venture deal with a unit of the Hai San group of Malaysia to put up a fully integrated cold storage business in the country worth initially P700 million.

In ice cream, RFM's Selecta-Walls has a strong partnership with Unilever Philippines and it likewise has an existing venture in the instant noodles business with the Uni-President group of Taiwan.

Regarding possible new ventures, RFM has also announced it was studying the possibility of investing in the entertainment business, specifically television broadcasting.

WAVE 89.1
Joe D' Mango's Love notes
Biggest Valentine Card Promo

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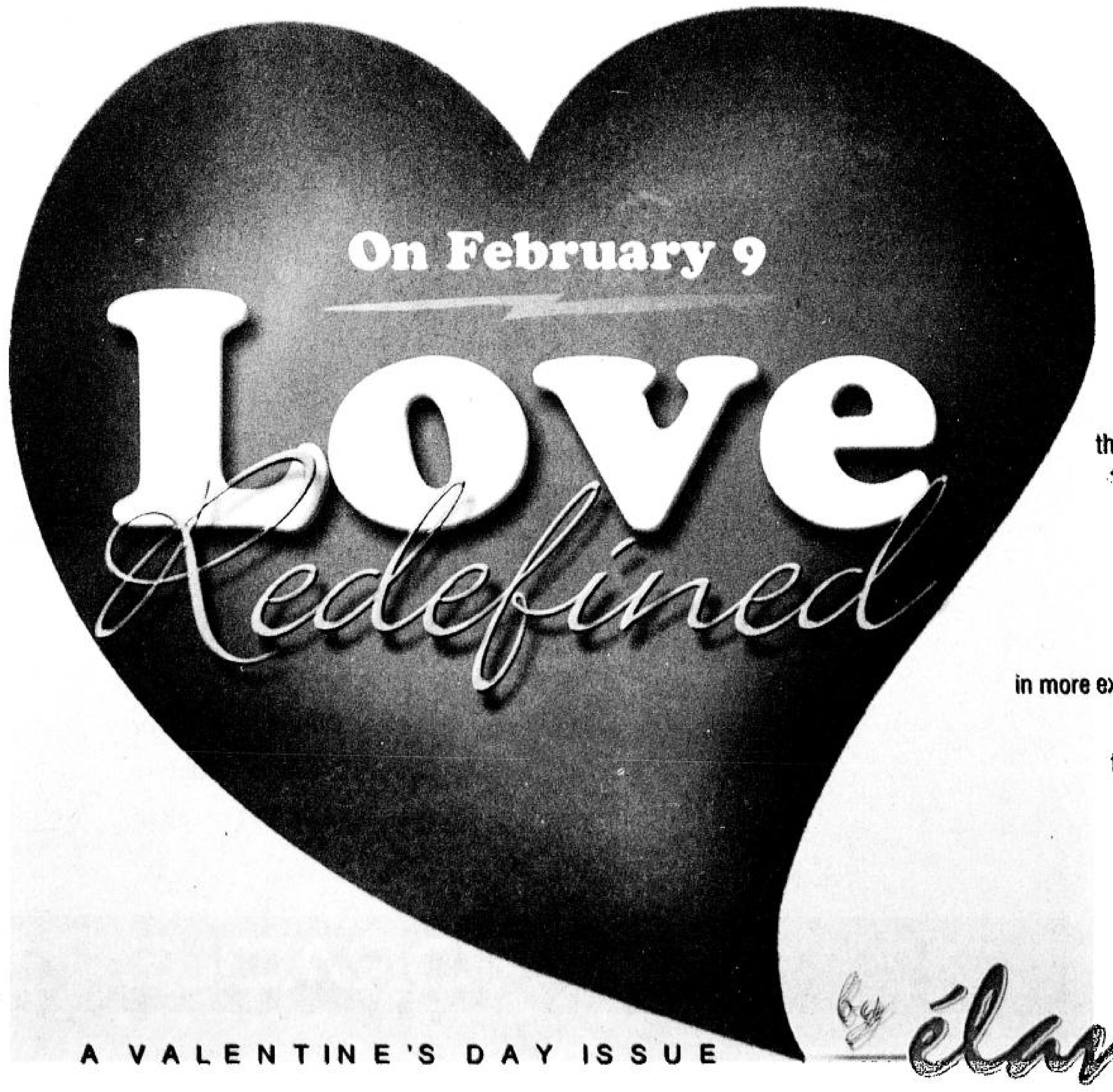

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# What the Philippines needs now

**FOR three years now, an annual gathering has been providing young leaders from various fields a venue where they can share their views and aspirations, and build networks through which they can channel their energies for meaningful social action.**

The composition of the group represented members of the business sectors' successor generation who are now taking over the reins of the country's leading companies, top civil servants who make sure that the government bureaucracy continues to deliver the service to the people, media personalities who play a strong role in molding public opinion, civil society movers who have direct links at the grassroots level, artists, entertainers and members of the academe who hold lasting sway over the Filipino culture.

The participants expressed their wish to help the administration move the Philippine economy, and in the process, the entire society, forward; their frustration over the tendency of many in government to drag everybody down because of intense politicking; and their hope that the Filipino nation will eventually learn to put its act together.

**Dysfunctional whole.** "What is our own Philippine story? There is a metaphor of a nation of excellent parts and a dysfunctional whole. Another metaphor talks about a people remarkable in moments of crisis and hopelessly inept in the day-to-day struggle to avoid the next foreseeable crisis." These were some of the unsettling questions raised by Mario Taguiwalo, the group's "resident philosopher" at the start of this year's edition of the Philippine Forum with a theme, "A Nation and World at the Crossroad."

**Successor generation.** For the past three years, through the Philippine Forum, people with diverse backgrounds—like Budget and Management Secretary Emilia Boncodin, former journalist and now presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, former

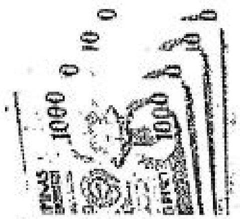
WHAT/ C2

BOOKMARK general manager Lory Tan, Ayala Corp. vice chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, singer Jim Paredes, composer Ryan Cayabyab, and forum convenor Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas II.

RIVERA

# Singer puts cash in pizza and car care ventures

By Leah Salterio



PERSONAL FINANCE

SINCE show business is not a very stable job, artists think of ways to invest their money wisely. Those who realize this think of businesses outside show businesses.

Three years ago, actor Ariel Rivera invested in a franchise of Domino's Pizza in San Fernando, Pampanga, with Apo Hiking Society member Buboy Garrovillo as one of his partners.

Ariel personally supervised the operations during the first few months of operation and even surprised some customers at home by delivering the pizza himself.

The pizza place still rakes in good money today, which perhaps gave Ariel the confidence to invest in another business.

This time, he opened Auto Ko Car Care Center, with Danny and Tess Rayos del Sol as major partners. The center focuses on second-hand cars and is located along Tomasa Avenue, Tomasa Estate Subdivision, Ususan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

It was not hard to convince Rivera to be one of the seven partners in Auto Ko. He readily put in the money needed by Danny, a friend from Mississauga in Toronto, Canada, where they both grew up.

"That's why I trust him," Ariel says. "I've known him for so long. I'm also aware that Tess knows a lot about the car business. I know her background. I'm confident about my partners."

Ariel was approached by Danny in July last year to invest in Auto Ko Car Care Center. In September, they started construction on a 2-hectare lot in Taguig.

The center offers different services like engine tune up, interior and exterior detailing, paint and body repair and extensive car care maintenance for oil change and lubrication, brake system, air conditioning, electrical system, suspension and exhaust system.

What's more, Auto Ko offers pickup and delivery to give its customers utmost convenience.

"Danny and Tess have also made our prices competitive so we can attract more customers," says Ariel.

In case customers get initially turned off with the location of Auto Ko, Danny points out that Taguig is just a 6-kilometer or 15-minute drive away from Makati.

"It's going to be a boom place this year because of all the developments happening in Fort Bonifacio," Danny says.

For every venture he makes, Ariel makes it a point to consult his wife, Gelli de Belen, who is very supportive of his decisions.

Ariel has been in the business long enough to know where to put his money wisely. Since he returned to Manila from Canada in 1991, he has carved a niche for himself in the local entertainment scene.

He is aware that every business, including show business, is a gamble.

"You shouldn't put your lifetime savings or even half of it into any venture," Ariel says. "You should save some for you and your family.

"I treat my business as a sideline. I get extra money so I become more stable. So far, I've been very fortunate in my first business. I hope it continues with the new one," he adds.

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# *What the Philippines needs now*

From page C1

Health Undersecretary and now NGO-leader Jaime Galvez Tan, stage actor Bart Guinogona, Ramon Magsaysay awardee for local governance Jesse Robredo, journalist Rina J. David, singer/writer Joey Ayala, and CODE NGO national coordinator Danilo Songco—met and discussed a wide array of concerns with Jaime and Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Vivienne and Michael Tan, Butch Campos, Luis Lorenzo, Lance Gokongwei, Butch Jimenez, Doris Magsaysay-Ho, Eugenio Lopez III, Juan Ponce Enrile, Alfonso Yuchengco III, Tony Boy Cojuangco, Jaime Jose Concepcion III, and other members of the business sector's successor generation.

**C2K3 Concerns**. "What our country needs now is to stand united and reinvent all the sectors that will develop our economy. Let's start with better education for tomorrow's new generation," said Vivienne Tan, managing director of Thames International Business School. "For me, the best preparation for a better tomorrow is to mold the young minds to the proper values through education."

Vanessa Ann Remoquillo, the youngest of the participants and an outstanding student leader from Ateneo de Davao, bannered the younger generation as the best hope for this country to rebuild and overcome rampant corruption and shore up waning morality of some people in government. She now works as youth affairs officer for Sen. Francisco Pangilinan, another Forum participant.

Francis Chua, president of the CLMC Group, noted that a corrupt-free government would help encourage foreign investors to come in. Chua, who is leading the Buy Filipino Movement, urged Filipino consumers to patronize locally made products so jobs would be created.

Anton Huang, executive vice president of Rustan Marketing Corp., hopes to see good and sound corporate responsibility programs adopted and mirrored in public governance.

Another participant succinctly described the Philippine society as one that is characterized by the "hump mentality"—everybody builds a hump in almost every other block, instead of simply learning to drive at the right speed and use the road properly.

Guido Delgado, who now has his own consultancy firm after a four-year stint as president of the National Power Corp., sees a bleak economy but remained optimistic that Filipinos can overcome the present economic crisis by reinventing themselves. "Addressing the country's problems is not the government's job alone. We should cooperate and do our part if we want to save our gasping economy."

**Powered by the young**. President Macapagal-Arroyo, in her keynote address, summed up for the Forum the least that could be expected of it: "The problems we confront are many and diverse but as we showed in Edsa, our greatest strength is our people power. People power to reform government. People power to make the economy move forward. As we saw in Edsa, people power was powered by the young. In the business sector, it is also powered by you, the successor generation."

During its debut in 2000, Philippine Forum chair and now Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas described the purpose of the Forum as: "It is for all of us—who by luck or hard work or any unique set of circumstances are now key decision makers in each of our fields—to come to know one another, to discover that our dreams are shared, to look into that horizon and see that, while the dream is possible, the journey thereto is far from easy."

"This C2K (Philippine Forum: Convergence in the Millennium) is meant to be a special place where formalities and biases are set aside in a spirit of friendship and adventure," he added.

On the average, 38 percent of the participants were recognized leaders from the business sector, 16 percent from culture and arts, 15 percent from civil society and nongovernment organizations, 14 percent from government, 12 percent from the media, and 7 percent from the academe.

In January 2000, about 150 young leaders of Philippine society gathered together for three days to discuss the fate and future of the Philippines in the age of globalization in the 21st century.

The Foundation was organized by the following convenors: Antonio Cojuangco, Jaime Jose Concepcion III, Lance Gokongwei, Doris Magsaysay-Ho, Menardo Jimenez Jr., Eugenio Lopez III, Jack Ponce-Enrile, Alfonso Yuchengco III, Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Chito Salazar, and Manuel A. Roxas II, founding chair.

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# Next generation Internet architectures and applications

**MAPPING THE FUTURE**

*Manuel Alcuaz Jr.*

BILL Gates envisions the next generation of the Internet to look like an online world where constellations of PCs, servers, smart devices and Internet-based services can collaborate seamlessly. Businesses will be able to share data, integrate their processes and join forces to offer customized, comprehensive solutions to their customers. And the information you or your business needs would be available wherever you are – whatever computing device, platform or application you are using.

He says, "That vision has yet to be achieved. In many respects, today's Internet still mirrors the old mainframe world. It's a server-centric computing model, with the browser playing the role of dumb terminal. Much of the information your business needs is locked up in centralized databases, served up a page at a time to individual users."

"Worse, Web pages are simply a "picture" of the data, not the data itself, forcing many developers back to "screen scraping" to acquire information. And integrating that underlying data with your business' existing systems—never mind those of your partners—is a costly and frustrating challenge."

Compounding this frustration is the fact that today's stand-alone applications and websites create islands of functionality and data. You have to navigate manually between websites, devices and applications, logging in each time and rarely being able to carry data with you.

You have to keep constant track of which particular application, device or website gives you which level of access to which particular data.

Tasks that ought to be simple—such as arranging a meeting with colleagues and automatically updating every attendee's calendar—are a nightmare. Productivity is one of the main casualties.

## XML and XML Web Services

The foundation technologies that made today's Internet possible are TCP/IP and HTML. TCP/IP provided the basis for connectivity, which in turn enabled file transfer and e-mail. HTML provided the capability for browsing and presentation of Web pages.

XML will solve today's Internet problems and usher in the next generation Internet. XML is eXtensible Markup Language. It is an industry standard created by the World Wide Web consortium for the exchange of data.

XML makes it possible to embed the data being exchanged in its description. This makes it easy for the receiver to understand the data it receives.

XML, unlike HTML, separates the data from its display. XML unlocks data for easy organization, processing and exchange.

HTML revolutionized the way users get to see information stored in Web pages. XML transforms the way applications talk to each other.

XML Web services are programmable and reusable. They are similar to COM software but accessible via the Internet. XML Web services will run across multiple websites, draw on information and services from each site, combine and deliver in customized form through any device. Web services will facilitate the development of integrated and customized solutions.

Developers will create and build Web services, rather than develop custom applications for servers and clients. They will snap together these services into loosely coupled collaborative constellations of software, using XML messaging to communicate.

## Microsoft.Net

.NET is Microsoft's platform for XML Web services. it enables the creation, deployment and use of XML–based applications, processes and websites as services. Web services share and combine information and functionality with each other by design to provide tailored solutions for organizations and individuals.

Microsoft.NET consists of:

- The .NET Platform—a set of programming tools and infrastructure to enable the creation, deployment, management and aggregation of XML Web services.
- .NET experiences are the means for end users to interact with .NET.

The .NET Platform comprises four components:

1. Developer tools—.NET Framework is a set of programming interfaces and visual studio.NET is a multi-language suite of development tools.
2. Server Infrastructure including Windows and .NET Enterprise servers for deploying and running XML Web services. These include SQL Server 2000, Biztalk Server 2000, Mobile Information 2001 Server, Application Center 2000 and Host Integration Server 2000.
3. Building Block Services – a set of user centric common XML Web services such as passport.
4. Smart Devices operating systems for PCs, laptops, handheld, smart phones, tablet PCs and other devices.

.NET experiences provide end user access to XML Web services. These will include new versions of Office XP, MSN, b Central and Windows XP.

XML Web services and Microsoft.NET in particular will trigger and enable the shift from server centric Internet architecture to a distributed Internet architecture.

Instead of dumb clients (browsers), the next generation internet will have smart clients. In addition to interaction between users and applications, there will be interaction between applications and between users.

The interaction will go beyond information access to information action. Instead of monolithic islands, there will be best of breed constellations. Integration will not be done as a remedy. It will be done by design.

## Business Benefits

The business benefits of Microsoft.NET will include:

- Greater agility due to much faster delivery of new functionality
- Lower cost of data communications and hardware
- Better integration and collaboration
- Better decision-making by empowered people.

*(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of Management Association of the Philippines, president of Systems Sciences Consult Inc. and member of the Board of Trustees of De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)*

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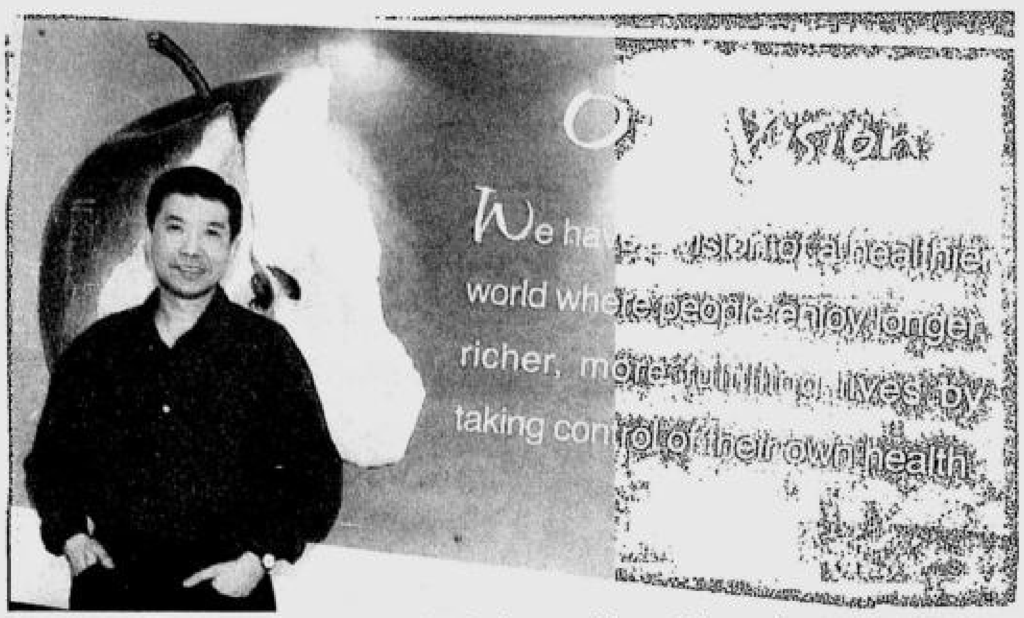
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**ROMEO Sia wants to create a common destiny between him and his people.**

# Make shops into 'mini MBAs' and empower managers

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

ROMEO Sia grew up speaking Chinese, studying in Chinese schools, helping in the family business.

**MANAGEMENT STYLES**

But when he finally set up his own venture, he did everything the Western way.

"I want to create a common destiny between me and my people," says the 42-year-old managing director of Healthy Options, a one-stop shop for health and related goods.

Instead of hiring relatives as is common among the Chinese and Filipino businessmen in general, Sia opted to get fresh graduates.

He says what he wants is to make his shops "mini MBAs" where his people can learn new skills and a sense of empowerment.

He invests in training his employees, in particular introducing them to computers, usually through two-day training programs.

"I want them to be educated, knowledgeable, and thinkers," he states.

He travels three to four times a year to look at various firms' best practices.

He says he did not go to business school and he has no mentor "except Barnes and Noble" (a famous international bookstore).

All his managers rose from the ranks and he has already sent four of them to the US for training and further exposure to the business.

"The way I run my business is I empower the managers," he says.

Sia admits that he experienced a high turnover among his people at the start.

"Nobody wants to work as a salesperson. Others want the glamor. But you have to win the hearts of your employees," he says.

Proof of his dedication to his people is that he handpicks each of his employees.

The policies and systems he was able to implement have resulted in a much lower turnover. Half of his 80 employees today have been with the firm for three to five years.

Sia is a marketing graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas and he says he learned to be a good employer having been an employee all his life.

He has been a sales agent, worked in a bank, worked in Britain for seven years and was a finance person for the ABS-CBN group.

"I know what it's like not to be treated well. Managers always want to please the boss," he observes."

Healthy Options was set up six years ago after Sia decided to get into the health food business when his son developed an allergy and they could not find organic food.

Sia himself is allergic to MSG and would immediately get a migraine if he consumes food with the seasoning.

This made him realize there is a market for health food in the country. He set up the business with long-time friend Christian Tan, who

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# Oil firm pitches for the environment

BIG businesses were urged to take their cue from Caltex (Philippines) Inc. as the oil company celebrated the release of "Good Roots II: Inheriting the Earth," a book chronicling their 10-year effort to propagate tree seedlings in the countryside under the care of participating families.

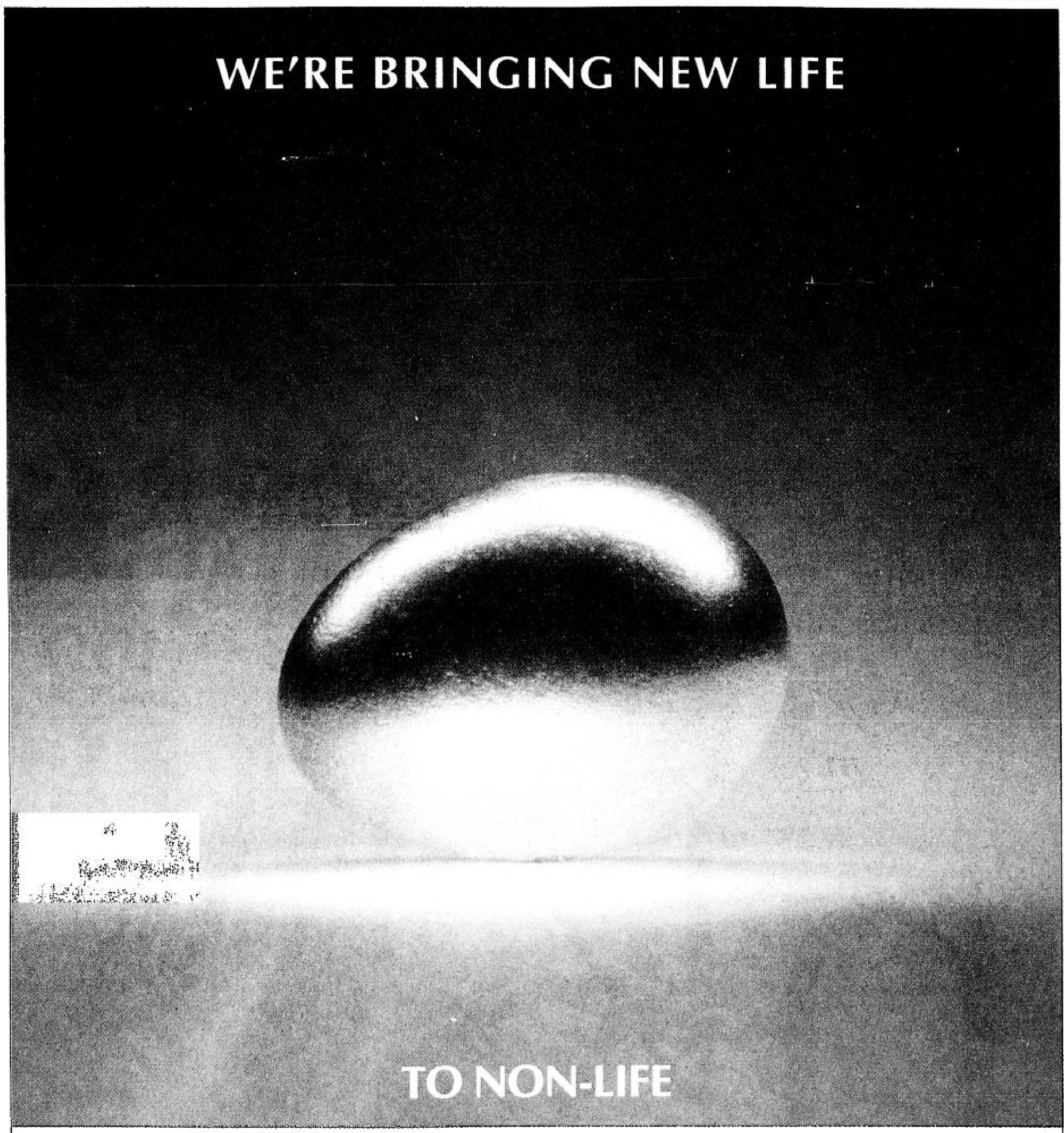
.Good Roots Project Director Ben J. Wallace authored the book based on their team's efforts to distribute and propagate trees and seedlings among communities in Ilocos Norte and Batangas. Over 400,000 trees have been distributed and propagated including the endangered Philippine teak, once one of the country's most dominant hardwood and now reduced to a few thousands in the wild. The country has experienced an annual deforestation rate of 3.3 percent since 1980, translating to about 200,000 hectares of land destroyed in a year.

Caltex has spent about P27 million for the project's first 10 years and is expected to shell out P3 million more for this year alone. Good Roots moves to the communities of Pugo, La Union, for 2002.

Wallace noted that the project was replicable in most parts of the country as the Philippines is one of the most highly deforested in Southeast Asia. "It should be noted that Good Roots is a sustainable project, unlike many developments. When the Good Roots team leaves the area, the farmers continue the project and often improve on it," he said.

Good Roots is solely funded by Caltex (Philippines) Inc. and gains academic and scientific assistance from Dallas-based Southern Methodist University and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

**GOOD Roots project director Ben J. Wallace, travel consultant Elsa Payumo, Caltex Pandacan terminal manager Ramon Macalalad and Lobo Mayor Renato Perez.**



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## Make . . .

From page C3

owns 50 percent but gave him a rein on the management of the firm.

Sia was able to grow the business despite all the crises the economy went through the past years..

Healthy Options is a Filipino firm which markets its goods via word of mouth and has an image of being a foreign brand because all of its products are imported. Its stores number eight and Sia says they plan to open two to three more this year.

Sia says in general health products are recession-proof as the market is principally the A and B market. Health foods cost about 30 to 40 percent more.

He says some of the barriers to the growth of the health food business is lack of education. Sia feels if people are more aware of the bad effects of some of the food they take in everyday, they will immediately shift to health food.

"It's not so much the price. Whatever we put in our body will show."

He says people have to learn to read the labels.

On the other hand he says retail is general a tough business.

"You have to be *tutok*," he says. "You have to be present and be hands-on." He goes to each of the eight stores once a week and flies to the Cebu branch once a month.

One thing Sia has adopted that is probably unique in his shop is a return policy. He says customers can return any product bought in a Healthy Option shop within 10 days from purchase if they are not satisfied or they feel it is not effective and for as long as they bring the receipt.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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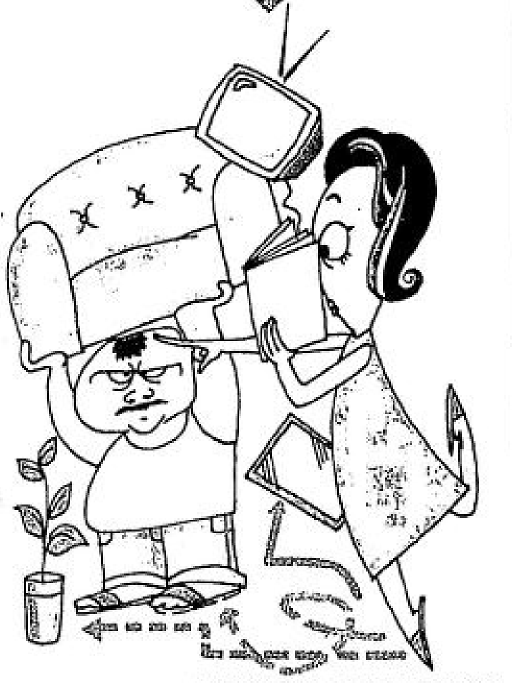


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE BEST
FENG-SHUI BOOKS

# Ride the horse and be your own geomancer

## Move your sofa and change your life! Avoid clutter! Get a life!

**By Jerome Gomez**
*Contributor*

TO BRIDGET Jones fans, feng shui is pretty easy. "This is all to do with mapping the bagua and putting things in pairs everywhere to create a karma of being in a relationship," the heroine admonishes in "Bridget Jones: A Guide to Life." To non-"Diary" fans, however, things could get a little more complicated than "not put a waste paper basket in your relationship corner."

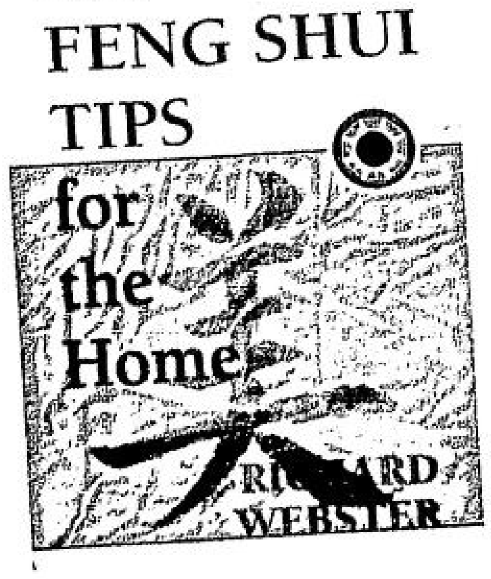
For people with more than the usual boyfriend/girlfriend on their wish list, there's a wealth of books on the subject. For and because of those who actually possess more than passing aspirations of learning feng shui—the heightening and harmonizing of the flow of energy in our surroundings in order to live in "a haven of happiness and prosperity," Sarah Rossbach is a happy and prosperous woman.

### 'Bible'

Rossbach has already written four books on the subject. One of them, "Feng Shui: The Chinese Art of Placement," was hailed by the New York Times as "the bible" on the ancient Chinese art. Here, the author goes into detail on how to use feng shui in various living areas, from rural to urban to townscape. A follow-up, "Interior Design with Feng shui," teaches how to decorate homes with practical and easy-to-do examples: hang mirrors or wind chimes to deflect negative influences; and use screens strategically to help your family relax and your guests feel at home.

Rossbach's most recent tome announces itself as "the first complete illustrated guide to the art of design with feng shui," and is a collaboration

RIDE/p.D2



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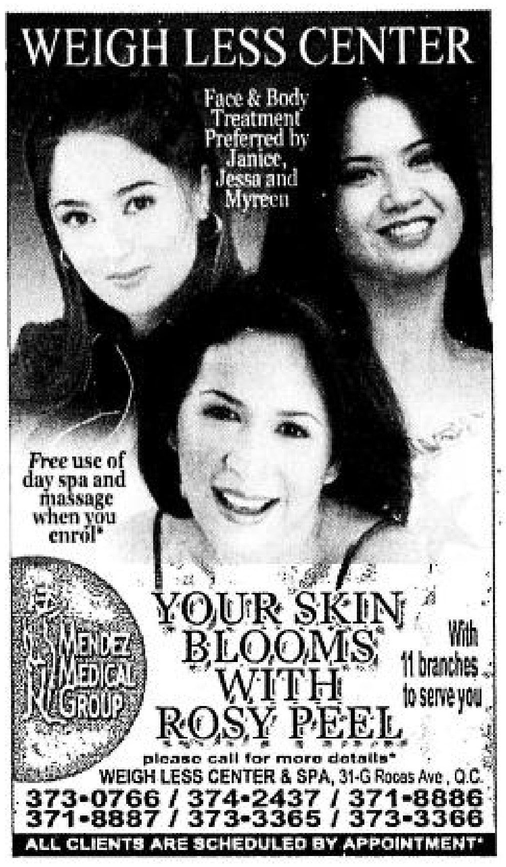

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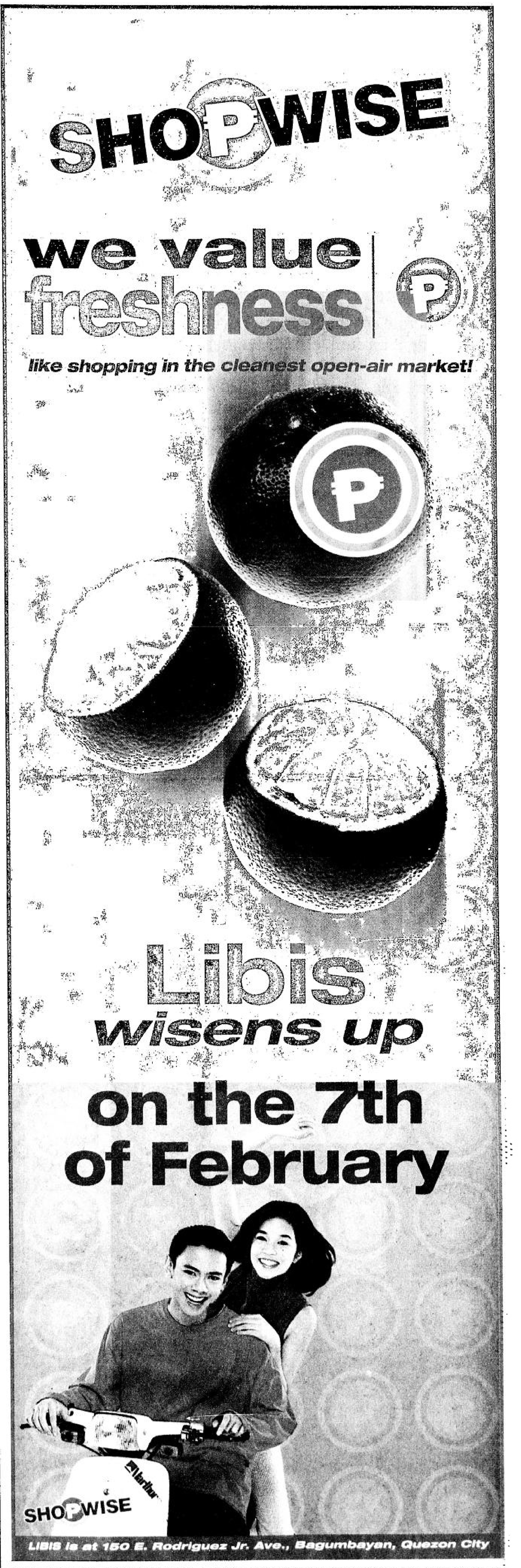

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# Revenge by feng shui

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The heroine of the hilarious novel 'The Feng Shui Junkie' finds out her husband has a mistress who adores geomancy. She wonders, 'How can a woman crave to live in harmony and communion with ancient Chinese wisdom and at the same time nonchalantly misappropriate husbands?'

**The Feng Shui Junkie**
*Orion Books (UK), 2000*

**By James Perez Ong**
*Contributor*

**REVIEW**

MOST people would do anything for love, or to save a failing marriage—but learn feng shui? That's what Julie Fitzgerald, the lead character in Brian Gallagher's first novel, "The Feng Shui Junkie," ends up doing after she comes home early from a vacation and discovers a lemon-yellow Wonderbra hanging on the doorknob. That, and the clothes strewn all over the apartment, are enough indication that her husband is cheating on her.

As she exacts revenge on her husband, dashing in his (yellow) Porsche with a wine decanter, and his mistress, wrecking her apartment and aquarium with an ice-pick, she chances on a feng-shui book ("Feng Shui: Transform Your Life With Ancient Chinese Wisdom") that, at first, she thinks is a bad joke, considering the circumstances. She asks herself: "How can a woman crave to live in harmony and communion with ancient Chinese wisdom and at the same time nonchalantly misappropriate husbands?"

As Julie befriends Nicole (the mistress) on the sly, and sets up a protracted confrontation scene with her husband that occurs only after several chapters in a Paris restaurant, she discovers that she is actually growing to like Nicole—and the principles of feng shui.

In the end, she dumps the husband and becomes friends with the other woman. Julie gifts the mistress with a pot of jasminé, which is considered the plant of friendship. Nicole, in turn, gives her a fish bowl containing eight goldfish, with one "either a black fish or carp of similar size" to stimulate chi. This, of course, needs to be placed near the entrance of one's home.

Set in Dublin, "The Feng Shui Junkie" is a light, easy-read that captures English humor and the female pysche. It's not just a book about a woman, it takes a woman's perspective, written by a man. It can be a frustrating read as the first-time author, a former barrister, tries very hard to build up suspense to the story's climax. In so doing, he inadvertently undervalues the other chapters, mainly comical scenarios of Julie finding ways to torment her philandering husband.

The other women in the book are Julie's best friend, the "big, brash and impatient" Sylvana whose only fault is "she's pathologically incapable of taking shots from anyone—especially men," and Getrude, the heroine's eccentric mother, who is every son-in-law's worst nightmare.

There are memorably violent scenes against non-human living things that only a man could be capable of imagining – Julie watching with contentment as she destroys Nicole's aquarium ("I am totally unmoved to see a squad of fish sucking desperately against the drenched woodblock floor, fins flapping uselessly against their pale bellies") and leaves Nicole's cat out in the sun to die from heat exhaustion.

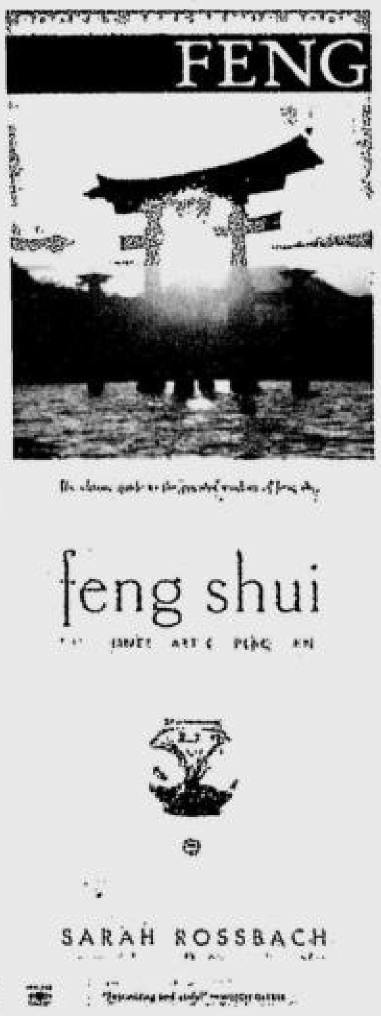
That said, the book is a recommended read for those whose only interest in feng shui is learning its correct pronunciation, and those suffering from a heartbreak and now in search of a guide on how to redirect their chi to exact revenge.

*Available at Powerbooks.*

She Got mad
She Got even
She Got a life.
The Feng-Shui Junkie
BRIAN GALLAGHER

# Ride the horse and be your own geomancer

LILLIAN TOO
ESSENTIAL FENG SHUI
feng shui
SARAH ROSSBACH



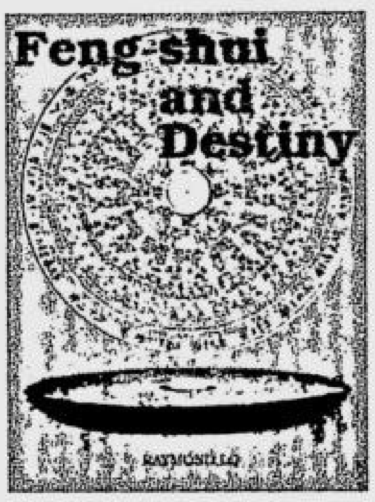
(From page D1)

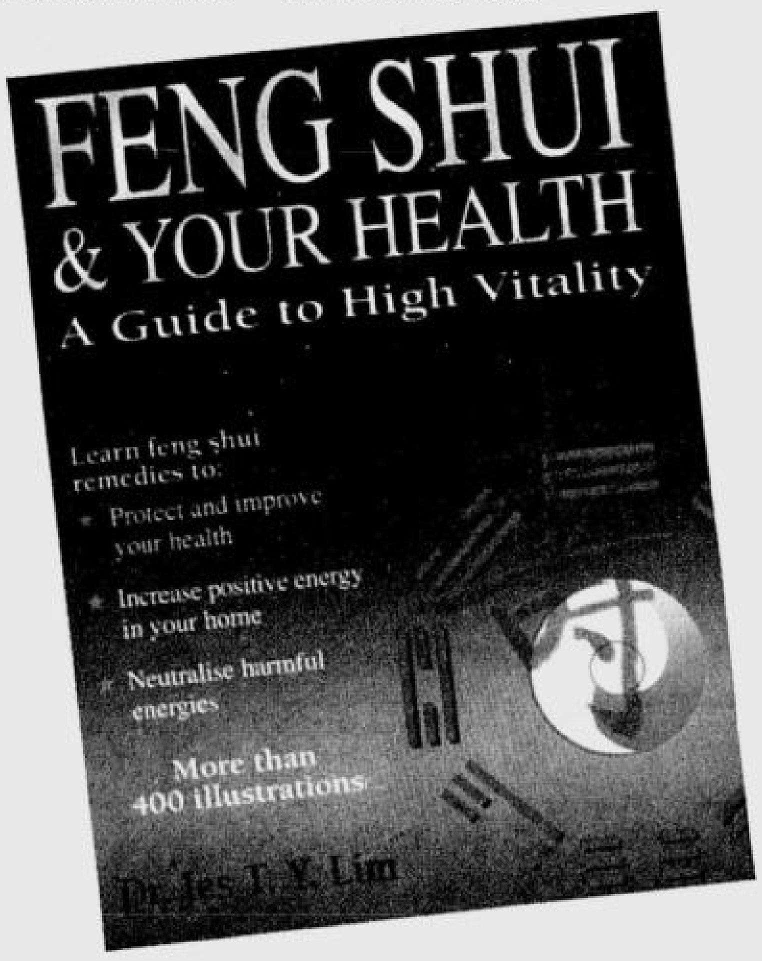
with Buddhist scholar, philosopher and calligrapher Master Lin Yun. Called "Feng Shui Design," it offers history and important Chinese and Western landscape examples, modern gardens and interiors with very helpful information on color scheme and how furniture is arranged to enhance positive energy. For a change, it's a feng-shui book that looks good enough for the coffee table.

### User-friendly

But what can be more user-friendly sounding than "101 Feng Shui Tips for the Home" from author Richard Webster. The book, from Lliewellyn Publications, teaches us how to evaluate the energy in our home and how to use crystals, colors and mirrors to enhance it. One spicy side dish: find out what you can do about negative energy coming from your neighbors and immediate surroundings.

Speaking of dish, Raymond Lo, who runs a Chinese-fortune-telling column in the Hong Kong Standard, has written a book called "Feng Shui and Destiny" where he explains how Bruce Lee died, why it had been predestined that Marilyn Monroe, Karen Carpenter and John Lennon would all die so tragically young, and how the Pillars of Destiny and Luck had affected the rise and fall of the political careers of Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev.



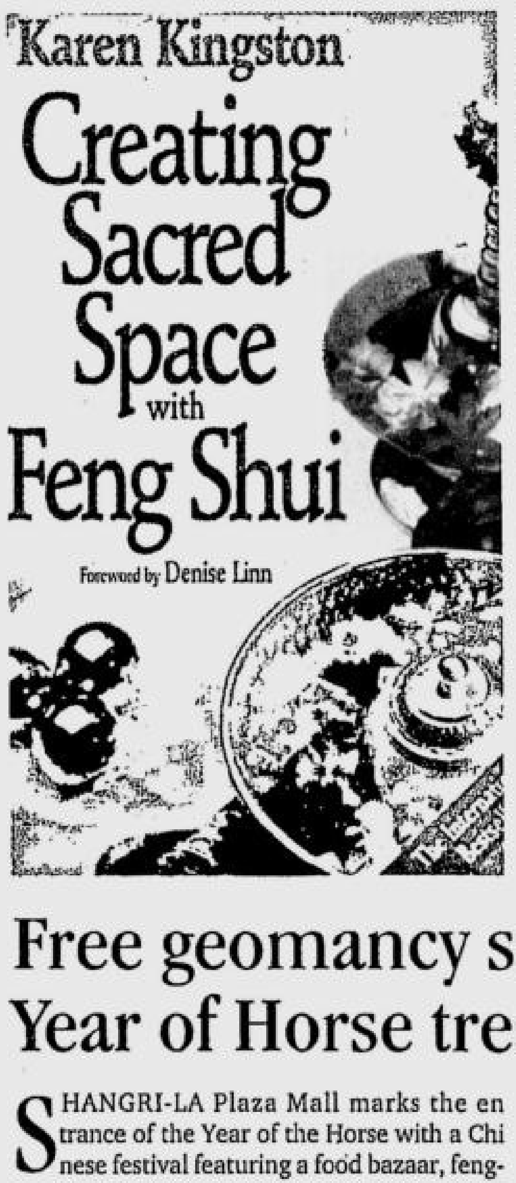

FENG SHUI & YOUR HEALTH
A Guide to High Vitality
Learn feng shui remedies to:
Protect and improve your health
Increase positive energy in your home
Neutralise harmful energies
More than 400 illustrations
Dr. Jes T. Y. Lim

### Engaging

Perhaps the most engaging read in the list of locally available titles on feng shui is Karen Kingston's "Creating Sacred Space with Feng-Shui." Written like a Sunday paper essay, the book usually takes off from the author's personal experiences as a "space clearing" practitioner before giving advice. "Space clearing" is the art of cleansing and consecrating spaces so that energy—from our body, from objects, from the air—is purified so that we can raise our quality of life. Sometimes, space clearing can really be just that, clearing out clutter. "Keep your front path as clear as possible," says Kingston in the chapter "Move your sofa and change your life!" "If you have to battle through overhanging branches, trailing plants, spiky hedges or other assorted debris to get into or out of your home, it will feel like you have to struggle to achieve anything in life."

Now if you bought all these books and suddenly find yourself in a dilemma which to read first, take a moment and breathe. Then put the books neatly on the bookshelf. Remember: clutter is stuck energy.

*All books available at PageOne (call 898-1395, -0968 and –0925) and PowerBooks (call 631-4915 at SM Megamall, 844-4455 in Makati; long on to www.powerbooks.com.ph or e-mail ibid@powerbooks.com.ph).*

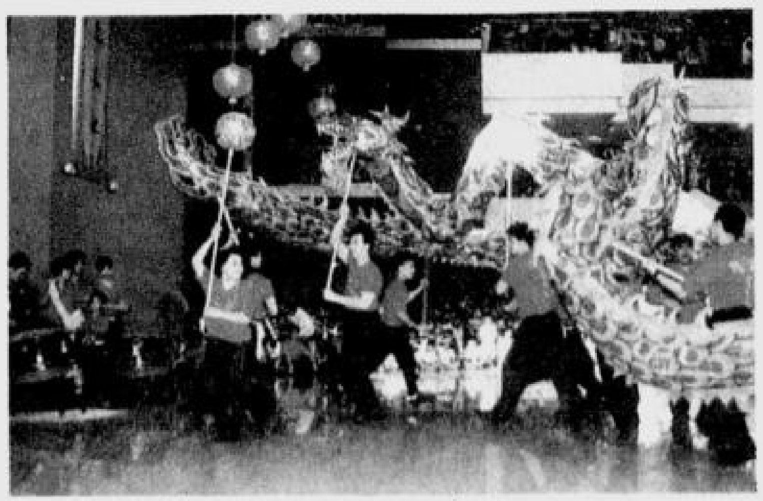


PERSONALISE YOUR FENG SHUI
A step-by-step guide to the Pillars of Destiny
Evelyn Lip

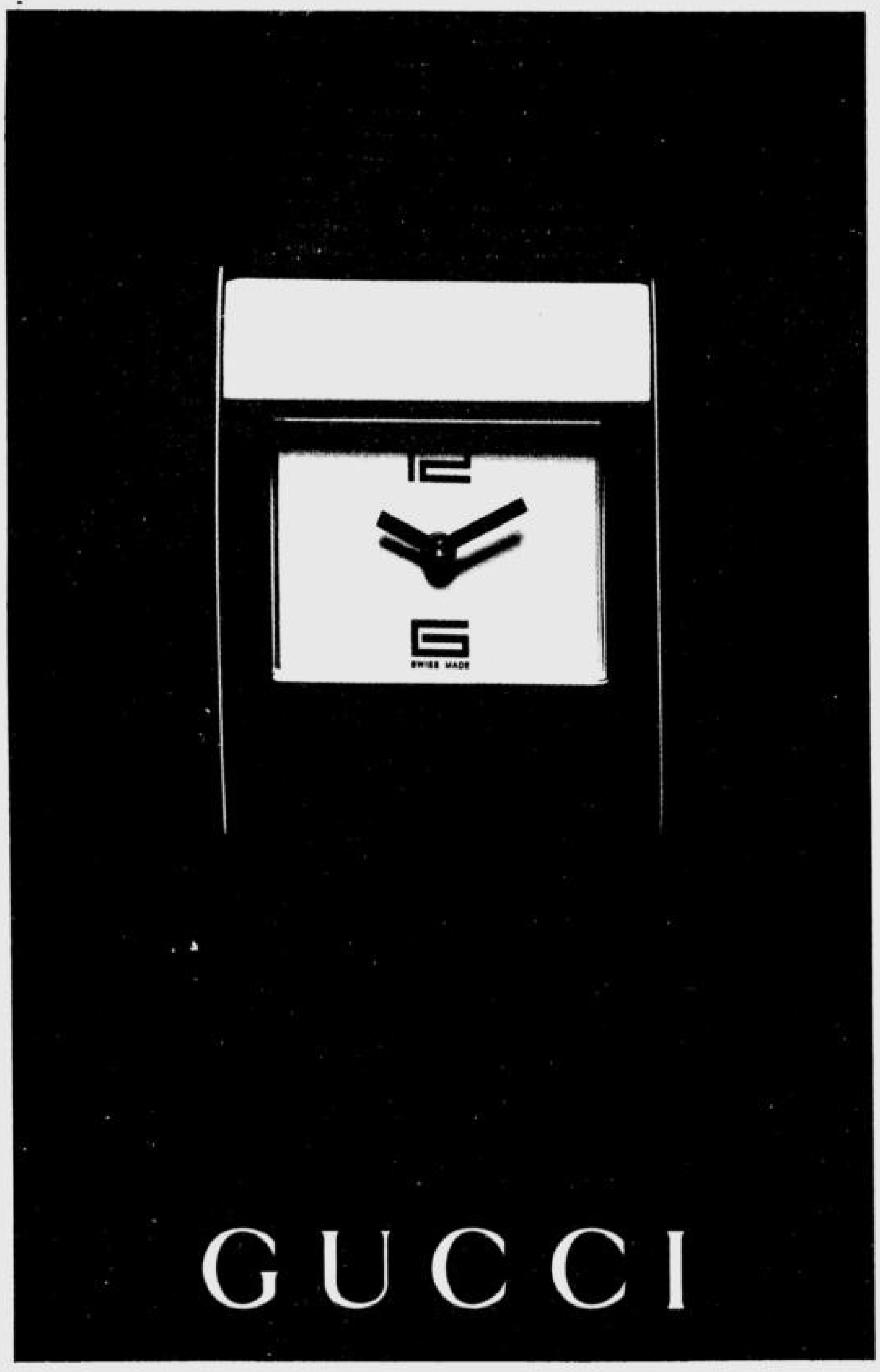
FENG SHUI DESIGN
SARAH ROSSBACH & MASTER LIN YUN

# Free geomancy services and other Year of Horse treats at Shangri-La Plaza

SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall marks the entrance of the Year of the Horse with a Chinese festival featuring a food bazaar, feng-shui consultations, a Chinese youth choral and a dragon and lion dance (above). Food lovers can enjoy good luck Chinese dishes and delicacies up to Feb. 24 at the food bazaar at 1/L Shaw side lobby and the Metrozone at 5/L. Geomancers Charlie Chao and Chat Alejandro will offer their services on Feb. 9, 1-8 p.m., to patrons who have availed of at least P3,000 single or accumulated purchase on that day. The Philippine Ling Nam Association will perform a spectacular dragon and lion dance on Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. at the Grand Atrium. The Dynamic Youth Chorale will also perform on Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. Call 633-7851 local 110.



DRAGON and lion dance


GUCCI

## *Education conference on Feb. 11-12 at PICC*

THE THIRD National Education Conference to be attended by more than 2,000 educators and human resource trainers from all over the country is slated on Feb. 11-12 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

DUNN

Dubbed "3nec@picc," the conference will have the theme "Festival of Learning Styles and Teaching Strategies." The speakers will be led by Dr. Rita Dunn and Dr. Karen Burke of the International Learning Styles Network based at St. John's University in New York.

Education advocate Henry Tenedero, in a recent media briefing, said the conference is being organized by the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles, an organization he heads.

Learning styles are anchored on the following beliefs: that learning can and should be maximized; that everyone has learning strengths, but people have different learning styles; and that instructional environments, resources and approaches, whenever suited to the learning style strengths of learners, helps maximize learning.

"Essentially, '3nec@picc' is a gathering to celebrate learning styles and teaching strategies with great fun and excitement," Tenedero said.

Call 374-4967 or 936-6790, or e-mail henyo@iconex.net.

# Goodbye to all that

**Twentieth Century: The History of the World, 1901-2000**
By J.M. Roberts
*Penguin Books, 856 pages*

**By Amadís Ma. Guerrero**
*Contributor*

IN 1901, many people "would have woken each morning in a world which smelt of horses rather than motorcars... in which milk, coal, beer and a hundred other necessities were delivered by horse-drawn carts and drays..."

**REVIEW**

In tackling his immense subject matter, historian J.M. Roberts adopts a fresh, reflective approach, first inviting the reader to imagine how different the world was at the start of the 20th century to what it is today.

After a view of the world in 1901, the author then reviews important events of the late 19th century that shaped the dawn of the 20th century. Then he attempts to make sense of the "torrent of events" that followed, where revolutionary changes made the 20th century "one like no other century in the entire history of mankind."

As far as this British historian is concerned (like most Western historians), the Philippines is just an historical footnote. The Philippine-American War is dismissed with a few sentences, the impression given the reader is that it was but a brief guerrilla warfare waged by the Filipinos.

It is the Boer War in South Africa (which also erupted in 1899) which Robert considers "the first war of the century."

### Wealth

There is also a wealth of information about Europe (specifically the major powers—all imperialist—Britain, France, Germany and Russia), followed by the US, Japan and China. These are considered the major players in the drama of the 20th century.

In 1901, much of the world lay under European domination. The United States was flexing its imperialist muscles (as brutally demonstrated in the Philippines, a fact noted by the author, although he calls the war an "insurrection"); and Japan was to emerge as a new world power, one as aggressive and expansionist as the old powers.

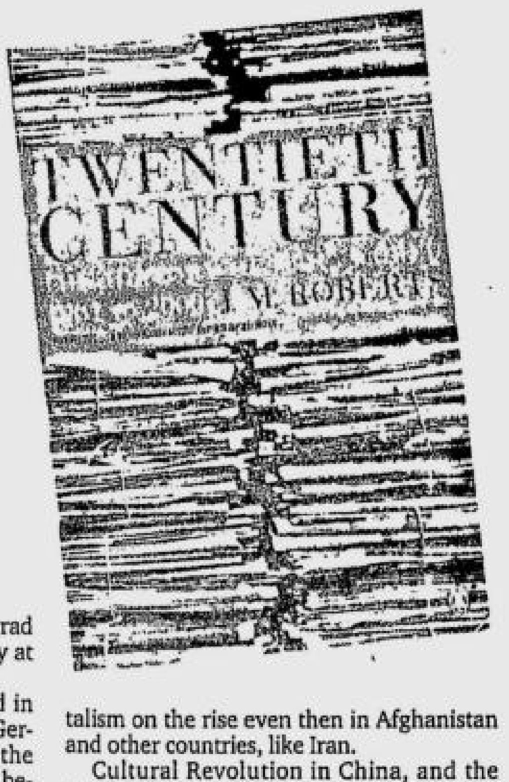
After a yearlong battle on land and sea to gain control over the nominally independent kingdom of Korea, Japan defeated Russia in 1905. It was "the first defeat of a European power by non-Europeans in a major war since the Middle Ages."

In China in 1912, Sun-Yat-sen's revolution toppled the 200-year-old Manchu dynasty, leading to the creation of a Chinese republic. But foreigners (including Japanese) continued to dominate and exploit China.

The Great War (WWI) broke out in Europe in 1914, and "... for the first time the skies became a zone of combat." In its scale, it was unparalleled. For four years, 5,000 men died every day, on the average. And Serbia lost a quarter of its 1914 population.

But World War II was a greater catastrophe, as one by one the nations of Europe fell under the German juggernaut. In June 1941, Germany invaded the USSR. The Germans were stopped 18 miles from Moscow, with the heroic defense of Stalingrad (dramatized in the recent film "Enemy at the Gates").

With two world wars, a 'cold war', nationalist wars, ideological wars—it was the bloodiest century yet



Three-and-a-half million men died in the invasion, nearly a million of them Germans. This was the turning point of the European war. The Pacific war would begin in December that year.

And history marched on.

### Prolonged antagonism

The Cold War, "a prolonged and bitter Soviet-American antagonism [that] overshadowed almost every other part of international life." Conflict in Palestine, which rages to this day, as the Jews and Palestinians fight for their homeland. The Korean War, which left over three million dead, wounded or missing, and five million homeless.

Revolution and civil war in Vietnam; and for the first time the US tastes the ashes of defeat, at the hand of a puny Asian nation at that. Africa, like Asia, begins to assert its independence. Islamic fundamentalism on the rise even then in Afghanistan and other countries, like Iran.

Cultural Revolution in China, and the death of Mao. He is succeeded by Deng Xiaoping, whose son was crippled by beatings from the Red Guards. The conquest of space, and the collapse of communism in Europe.

And so, goodbye to the 20th century, which actually ended Dec. 31, 2000, our century, perhaps the bloodiest in the annals of humankind. But its technological discoveries were dazzling, and it produced great artists and writers. After the destruction, arts and letters thrived anew.

As the American writer Katherine Anne Porter put it in 1940, with Europe in flames: "They (the arts) cannot be destroyed altogether because they represent the substance of life and the only reality. They are what we find again when the ruins are cleared away."

## Conquest of 'sabong' in comic stories by Antonio A. Hidalgo

MILFLORES Publishing Inc. has recently released "The Hilarious World of Nestor" and "Ang Masayang Mundo ni Nestor D," collections of humorous short stories in English and Filipino by Antonio A. Hidalgo.

The 12 hilarious stories in each bode revolve around the misadventures of an imaginative, intellectual, dedicated, wealthy, wacky and ill-fated *sabungero* called Nestor Divinagracia. Obsessed with becoming the greatest cockfighter in the whole world, he constantly conjures up the most elaborate and complicated scheme to conquer the world of *sabong*. He invariably fails in his quixotic quest and quaffs the bitter brew of defeat again and again without flinching. In fact, he generously shares the brew with his two Sancho Panzas, Oscar and Abet, and his Dulcinea, his young and beautiful, half-Dutch, second wife, Katrina Vandenburg.

ANTONIO A. HIDALGO
ANG MASAYANG MUNDO NI NESTOR D

ANTONIO A. HIDALGO
THE HILARIOUS WORLD OF NESTOR D

Through side-splitting comedy and biting irony, Hidalgo reflects the absurd elements of our social reality and plumbs the deeper intellectual, psychological and behavioral truths that are inherent in the Filipino human condition. These funny and insightful stories are among the most popular and widely read in the country today after being individually printed in the Liwayway Magasin, the Philippines Free Press, the Philippine Graphic, Musa and in some of Hidalgo's *sabong* manuals. They are offered as a complete series of interrelated stories for the first time in these books—the better to render the additional depth and meaning of the collections as a whole.

Hidalgo won prizes in the 2001 Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature and the 2000 NVM Gonzalez Awards for his stories. His stories have been anthologized in the 2000 Book of Poetry and Fiction and the 1999 Aklat Likhaan ng Tula at Maikling Kuwento of the UP Creative Writing Center and the UP Press.

The books are available at National, Powerbooks, Goodwill and Bibliarch at P280 per copy.

## *San Sebastian College marks 55 years*

ENTERTAINMENT, fun and contests marked the 55th foundation day of the Augustinian Recollect school San Sebastian College on Claro M. Recto Avenue, Manila.

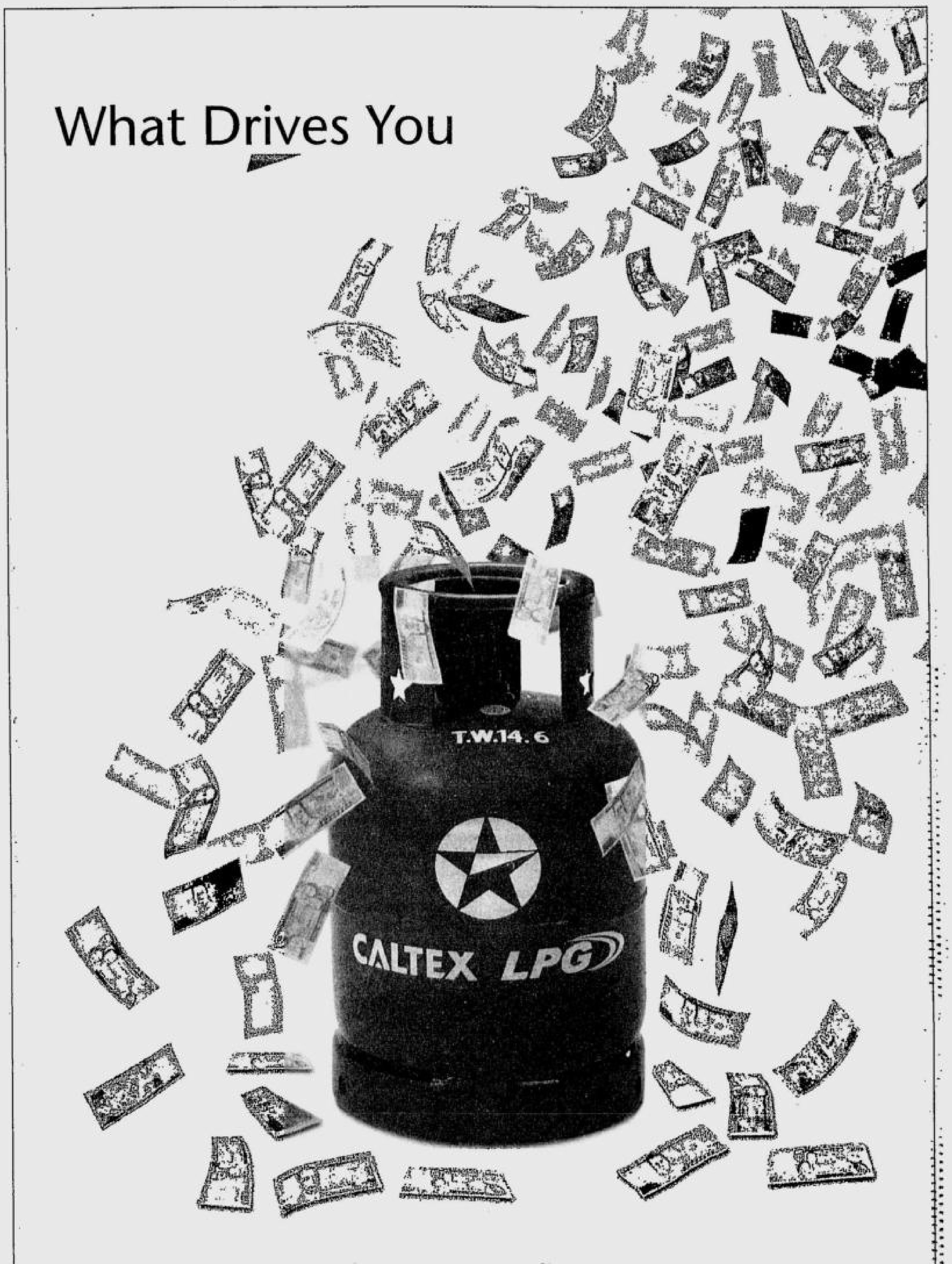
Students and Recollect priests participated in the San Sebastian Basilica mass that marked the five-day affair, which opened Jan. 16 and ended Jan. 20.

This year's theme, "San Sebastian College Responding to the Challenges of Globalization," was mirrored in different organization booths and contest themes held for the affair.

Among the happenings of the students were the on-the-spot painting contest, quiz bee, cultural night (concert filled with music and rock 'n' roll), field demonstration (elementary dance contest) and the 2002 Search for Mr. and Ms San Sebastian, participated by representatives from the elementary to college departments.

Employees of the school also had their taste of fun during the "fun-lympics."

**SAN Sebastian College president Fr. Constantino Real, O.A.R. (left) and campus ministry head Fr. Rommel Rubia, O.A.R. join the "prisoners" in the Jammer Stag's jail booth during the school's foundation day merriment.**



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# Patterson's latest thriller is black and 'Blue'

**Violets Are Blue**
*By James Patterson*
*Warner Books, New York,*
*2001, 393 pages*

**By Ruel S. De Vera**

**REVIEW**

PROLIFIC creator of the nastiest fictional villains this side of Hannibal Lecter, James Patterson has brewed a best-selling career out of truly demented human beings and the intelligent paladins sent to stop their murderous rampages. By far, Patterson's most vivid protagonist has been forensic psychologist Alex Cross, who has appeared in several of his thrillers and was smoothly portrayed by Morgan Freeman in the screen adaptations of Patterson's "Kiss The Girls" and "Along Came a Spider." Suave yet steely, compassionate yet relentless, Cross is the perfect foil for any villain even Patterson can dream up, maybe even a bit too perfect.

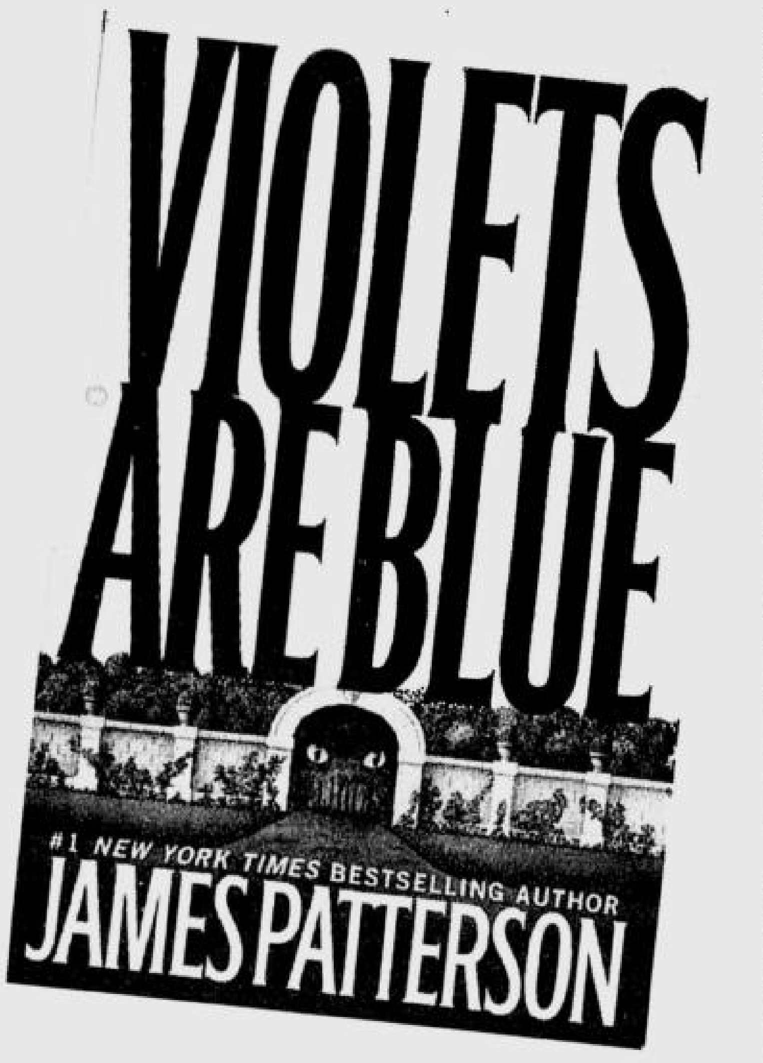
In "Violets Are Blue," Patterson's 18th novel, the reliable hero is put to the test against an unbeatable serial killer with the rather bland name The Mastermind, who first appeared in the novel, what else, "Roses Are Red." After catching the more imaginatively named antagonists Cassanova, Gentleman Caller, Jack and Jill in his previous appearances, Cross must now match wits with a killer who appears to know everything about him. In a chilling opening sequence, Cross must deal with The Mastermind's killing of a former lover—and the serial killer's constant calls on both his cellular phone and home phone.

> Boasting his most vicious villains yet as well as the highest body count, Patterson's 'Violets Are Blue' may have teeth but feels as old as the reliable Alex Cross

Meanwhile, two impossibly attractive young men are scouring the country, killing seemingly random victims by biting them and draining them of all their blood. There is horrible mayhem and murder wherever the two ponytailed killers cross. Even as he must protect his family and loved ones from The Mastermind, Cross must also track down the killers, who, from all appearances, are vampires.

Even though Patterson never uses supernatural forces, "Violets Are Blue" resonates with a creepy vibe because of all the vampire and goth atmosphere. At the heart of the book is a race between Cross, the so-called vampires and The Mastermind for control over the others. That race is a fast-paced and engrossing one, perfect for a layover at an airport and maybe even a late night for the truly stouthearted.

But in "Violets Are Blue," Patterson lets the blood flow like never before. Dozens of people die in this book at the hands—and fangs—of the self-admitted vampires before Cross even has a chance to catch up to them. Meanwhile, The Mastermind cuts his own bloody path through the hero's past acquaintances and friends. Want more? Cross actually gets bitten by one of the dentally endowed people.



"Violets Are Blue" is, by far, Patterson's bloodiest and goriest book. Not only are the victims attacked in outlandishly fiendish ways, but Patterson throws every bone our way, making for some truly disturbing. And as if that wasn't bad enough, the two roving vampire killers have a range of perverse interests ranging from the young to the already dead. Only read this book if you have the stomach for it; otherwise it might give you nightmares.

Beyond that, the vampire brothers Michael and William are also the most vicious villains Patterson has yet devised. Totally remorseless and beautiful, the pair kills because they believe death gives the greatest ecstasy—to the victim. In other words, they believe killing someone gives the victim the greatest thrill. And they believe themselves to be immortal. Michael and William are Cross's worst nightmare: human killing machines with ulterior motives and delusions of grandeur. The chase and denouement surrounding these two are refreshingly vigorous plot twists that invigorate what feels, at times, to be another "regular" Alex Cross novel.

Unfortunately, the vampire angle cannot distract from the totally lame subplot involving The Mastermind. A bad idea almost from the very beginning, the search for The Mastermind proves not only embarrassingly easy to figure out, but also takes some of the narrative energy away from the interesting vampire hunt. "Violets Are Blue" would simply have been a better book without the whole Mastermind debacle.

Patterson does give his protagonist a lot of puzzles to solve and tires him out with the constant chases. In this book, Cross appears a little more fallible in "Violets Are Blue," though Patterson's latest novel is still, for good or bad, a vintage Alex Cross adventure. Toward the end, though, Patterson gives some hints that some changes might be coming for our favorite forensic psychologist, and that would be something to look forward to. Those changes were too late, however, to prevent "Violets Are Blue" from smelling like someone's hand-me-down flowers, even if they were flowers for the dead.

*Available in paperback at National Bookstore and PowerBooks.*

# Getting published is no piece of cake

**By Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz**
*Contributor*

> American nonfiction author Jo S. Kittinger stumbled on her first book deal and wrote on a topic she initially had no knowledge of

**KITTINGER** with two of her books.

THE PATH to publication is long and arduous, according to children's author and recent Manila visitor Jo S. Kittinger. Although she has published eight nonfiction books with various well-known publishing houses like Children's Press, DK Publishing, Meadowbrook Press and Franklin Watts Publishing, her original attempts were in fiction, until she realized how competitive the field was.

It was easier to sell nonfiction to US publishing houses and it was her interest in nature that led to her first published book in 1996, "Dead Log Alive!" It examines the variety of animal and plant life found on, in and around dead logs. She went on to write on another fascination of hers, hot-air balloons, hoping that the assignment would then have to require her to ride on one in the interest of research. Her idea was not accepted by the publisher because the topic was not deemed novel enough.

But in the course of following up on the idea with a friend in the publishing house, Kittinger somehow ended up talking with the head of the publishing company himself. That was a shock to her and she was even more astounded when he asked, "So what other topics do you have in mind?" She had nothing in mind just then, but in her desire to seize the opportunity, all she could mention were what were visible to her at the moment—rocks and minerals. It could also be she got the idea from the extensive rock collection of her husband occupying every surface of their Alabama home, of which she had always complained about. The subject became the inspiration for a three-book series on rocks, minerals and fossils. Today, "A Look at Rocks: From Coal to Kimberlite" is Kittinger's best-selling book. It has also been included in the list of Best Science Books for Children in 1998 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Kittinger has been writing for children since 1991 and before the book projects, had submitted articles, illustrations and photographs for children's magazines, including a hidden picture to Highlights for Children. This is the largest circulating magazine for children in the US and carries no form of advertising at all.

It was inevitable that Kittinger should turn to children's literature. "I love the art of picture books. Children's books, even the novels seem more rich, concise, more poetic than adult literature... I loved books when I was growing up. Books were an escape and my own best friends."

To her, the best thing about being a nonfiction writer is knowing that she can write on any topic, even one she knows nothing about. "I don't have to be a university professor to be able to write on a topic, I just have to do good research."

She cautions that the topic one chooses must be of one's interest, for how could one interest and excite children if one felt differently?

Even then, the hard work had to continue. Since she was catering to the 8-12 year old readers, Kittinger read all the other books in the series to familiarize herself with the tone, the sentence patterns and the vocabulary, even using a readability guide.

Her next book is a 50-word story for beginning readers entitled "Going to the Beach." The revision may not have been as difficult because of the prescribed length, but it was no easier to do. But this was a breeze compared to the 2,000 quotes she had to write up for the book "The Joy of Cats," which in the final count included only 200. And what about the time her editor suddenly asked her to turn one sentence in her manuscript into a totally new chapter?

She was elated when a publisher assigned her to work on a book proposal she had made, but was devastated when she was told her manuscript was not needed till a year hence. In another instance, it was a minor triumph for her to be able to answer an academician's challenge on her book "The World of Animal Fossils." She was questioned about a particular tree mentioned in the text—was Kittinger sure that this was indeed grown in the country? The academician did not think so. This was easy for her to answer with a degree of authority because the tree grew in her very own backyard.

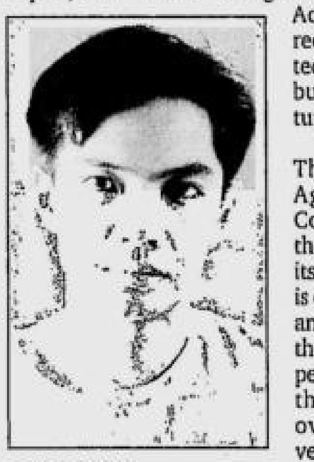
Despite the disparity in publishing circumstances in New York and Manila, Kittinger's experiences struck a familiar chord in the writers and illustrators in attendance at this "Meet the Author" afternoon tea. The gathering was hosted by illustrator Beaulah P. Taguiwalo, regional adviser of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators for the Philippines and Asia-Pacific. The author, with her family, was in Manila for a day on her way back to the US after visiting her son doing a year's volunteer work in Puerto Princesa.

An active SCBWI member, Kittinger credits the organization for all the breaks she has enjoyed in publishing. SCBWI is an international professional organization dedicated to "serving the people who write, illustrate and share a vital interest in children's literature." It was the numerous writers' retreats of the Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia chapter that Kittinger is active in which led to the publication of her many book ideas. Membership inquiries may be made by going to http://www.scbwi.org

*The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People. Call 372-3548 or 49 or e-mail nenisrc@hotmail.com .*

# *Philippine history books to be launched; Rep to stage life of Aguinaldo*

THE CAVITE Historical Society and the UP Press will launch three books on the Philippine Revolution—"Cavite Before the Revolution" (revised edition) by Isagani R. Medina, "Saga and Triumph: The Filipino Revolution Against Spain" (revised edition) by O.D. Corpuz, and "The Filipino-American War, 1899-1913" by Samuel K. Tan—today, at 5 p.m., at the W. Shaw Theater, 5/F Shangri-La Plaza, Mandalu-yong City.



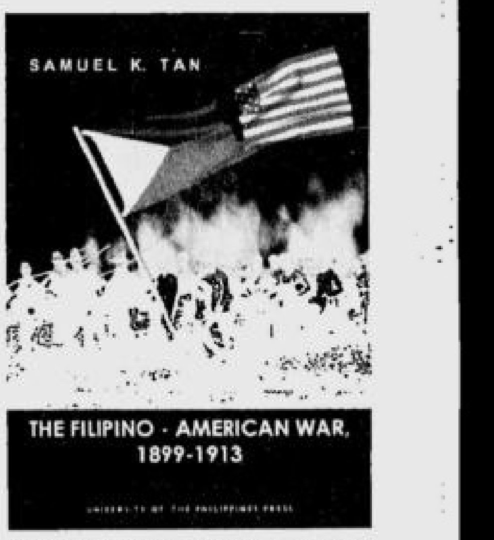
**SEASONED** actor Noel Rayos as Miong

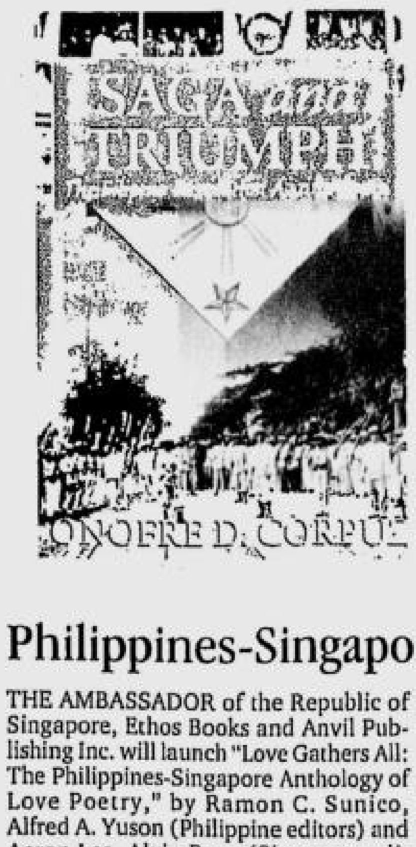
"Cavite Before the Revolution" by Isagani R. Medina covers the creation of Cavite as a colonial province in 1571, through its development up to the beginnings of the Cavite phase of the Revolution in 1896. It aims to accomplish the following: the development of a historiographical guide on 19th century Cavite through the use of extant primary and secondary sources, the understanding of *tulisanismo* in Cavite, and the development of a model for the writing of local histories essential to the preparation of national histories.

Medina has been described as a walking encyclopedia on Philippine history. As one writer puts it, "no one comes close to his lofty perch, from which he surveys the country's historical terrain. Like a hawk, he can spot a single item in this vast landscape, then swoop down on this datum to correct some other historian's oversight." He received the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Dangal ng Haraya (Lifetime Achievement Award) in recognition of his committed and significant contribution in the field of cultural research.

"Saga and Triumph: The Filipino Revolution Against Spain" by O.D. Corpuz tells the story of the Filipino Revolution in its full compass. This work is clearly a patriotic history and depicts the Filipinos of the Revolution as a worthy people whose constancy to their ideals lifted them over challenges and reverses. In his own words, Corpuz offers this work as a contribution to the enrichment of the Filipino's collective memory.

Corpuz is Professor Emeritus of Economic History at the University of the Philippines School of Economics. He was president of the University from 1975-1979. He has done extensive research in Cambridge (Mass., USA), Washington D.C., London, and in the Sevilla archives in Spain. His two-volume "The Roots of the Filipino Nation" (1989) is widely considered a classic. His most recent work is an economic history of the Philippines.





CAVITE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION (1571-1896)
Isagani R. Medina

"The Filipino-American War, 1899-1913" by Samuel K. Tan brings together the struggle and travails of the Filipino people after their shortlived emancipation from over 300 years of Spanish rule. Important in this task is not only the survey of a reasonable amount of both primary and secondary sources on the war, but also the integration of the otherwise neglected struggle of the non-Christian sector, especially Filipino Muslims.

Tan is a native of Siasi, Sulu, and is of Muslim-Chinese-Christian ancestry and background. He served as chair-executive director of the National Historical institute, and commissioner of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Cesar E.A. Virata, president of the Cavite Historical Society, will lead the presentation of first copies to the authors. The book launch will precede the performance of the Repertory Philippines production of "Miong," a musicale based on the life of Emilio Aguinaldo, book and lyrics by Joy G. Virata and Freddie Santos, music by Ian Monsod and Gerard Salonga, choreographed by Jaime del Prado, directed by Zeneida Amador.

Repertory will stage the play also on March 1-3 at the RCBC Plaza in Makati. Call 633-4821 for ticket reservations.

# Philippines-Singapore anthology of love poems out soon

THE AMBASSADOR of the Republic of Singapore, Ethos Books and Anvil Publishing Inc. will launch "Love Gathers All: The Philippines-Singapore Anthology of Love Poetry," by Ramon C. Sunico, Alfred A. Yuson (Philippine editors) and Aaron Lee, Alvin Pang (Singapore editors), on Feb. 10, 6 p.m.

The book is the first-ever joint literary venture between the Philippines and Singapore. In this cross-cultural project, 127 love poems by 94 poets in both countries are published side by side in one volume, together with a selection of beautiful illustrations that "invoke and celebrate the tribulations and ecstasies of love."

The Filipino poets represented in the collection are Gemino H. Abad, Cesar Ruiz Aquino, Ronald Baytan, Cirilo F. Bautista, Lionel G. Brion, Luis Cabalquinto, Sofiya Colette Cabalquinto, Justine Camacho, G. B. Calleja, Jose Wendell P. Capili, Carlomar Arcangel Daoana, Noelle Q. de Jesus, Vicente Soria de Veyra, Ricardo M. de Ungria, Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta, Simeon Dumdum Jr., Luis H. Francia, Liwanag Gallaga, Eric Gamalinda, Jeneen R. Garcia, Felino S. Garcia Jr., J. Neil Garcia, Christine F. Godinez-Ortega, Remé-Antonia Grefalda, Ramil Digal Gulle, Luisa A. Igloria, Neal Imperial, Marne L. Kilates, John Labella, Jaime An Lim, Francis Macansantos, Mike Maniquiz, Lani T. Montreal, Rene J. Navarro, Fran Ng, Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio, Jon Marcelino Pineda, Danton Remoto, Angelo V. Suarez, Nadine Sarreal, Alice M. Sun-Cua, Ramon C. Sunico, Eileen Tabios, Anthony L. Tan, Rowena Torrevillas, Ernesto Superal Yee and Alfred A. Yuson.

In line with the release of this unique book, a series of poetry readings/mini launchings are scheduled around Metro Manila, with visiting Singaporean poets Kirpal Singh and Aaron Lee, Straits Times arts columnist Ong Sor Fern and Ethos Books' Winnifred Wong and May Ng as guests of honor. The schedules for the reading tour are as follows: Feb: 11, 4:30 p.m., Ateneo Art Gallery, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC; Feb. 11, 8 p.m., Amoeba Music Exchange and First Edition Book Store, Fuentes Circle, Eastwood, City Walk, Libis, E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC; Feb. 12, 8 p.m., the Francisco Arcellana Reading Center, Faculty Center, UP Diliman, QC; Feb. 13, 5 p.m. at the launching of Ophelia A. Dimalanta's book "Lorenzo Ruiz, Escribano," Center for Intercultural Studies, 5/F, University of Santo Tomas Central Library building, UST Campus, Manila; and Feb. 13, 8 p.m., at Sanctum, Chamber 9, Puerta Isabel II, Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila.

# Toasts to Asia Society, Sto. Niño, Waipai, Belgium and Australia

BELGIAN Ambassador Roland and Sylvia Van Remoortele PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

VENEZUELAN Ambassador Milena Ramirez

BEN Farrales

MELLY and Luis Ablaza

JOHNNY Litton

EVIE Costa and Mariana Hubbard, wife of the Mexican Ambassador

From page D6

If you've got any teenyboppers or if you're a size 4 or maybe a 2, there's a new shop by **Edi Tekeli** called Waipai at the Rockwell. The opening ceremonies at the Rockwell Club Court with **Johnny Litton** as emcee had cocktails and a fashion preview featuring sweet young things. Johnny said Tekeli's goal is to dress "all the ladies in the country!" Thanks for the compliment, but either I'm no lady or he'll have to start ordering triple and quadruple the size of the present stock. Earlier, Tekeli introduced Mango to the Philippines.

* * *

How's anyone supposed to lose weight around here to fit into Tekeli's nymphet type clothes? Belgian Ambassador **Roland Van Remoortele** and his charming wife **Sylvia** tendered this "luau" celebrating the New Year. Served were at least a dozen mouthwatering desserts, not to mention barbecued lamb and chicken and naturally fried rice. Oh, well, enjoy.

Happily munching away were **Paz Yuchengco** and **Narda Camacho** who had been on the road since morning, **Nena Casimiro**, **Helen Ong** and **Beth Day Romulo**, who said she takes white wine for cocktails and switches to red with her meals. **Fortune Ledesma** and **Evie Costa** were as usual gowned in glamorous muumuus. Just as game were **Jomari Chan** (he's off to Chicago for a concert) and Singaporean Ambassador **Jacky Foo** with lovely and super-brainy wife, **Yumi**. Mme. **Hasan Sarmad**, chair of the Diplomatic Ladies' annual fund-raising tea this year (be sure to attend), wasn't wearing a muumuu but had gorgeous emeralds that complemented her silk gown.

* * *

Australia and the Philippines reaffirmed their strong support to people links and their long-standing friendship during Australia National Day on Jan. 26. Australian Ambassador **John Buckley** and Vice President and Foreign Secretary **Teofisto Guingona** led the guests in the ceremonial toast to celebrate the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Present were Russian Ambassador and acting dean of the diplomatic corps **Anatoli Khmelnitski**, Presidential Spokesman **Rigoberto Tiglao**, former President **Fidel Ramos**, Washington Sycip, Rep. **Teodoro Locsin Jr.**, **Miguel Varela** of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Associate Justice **Artemio Panganiban**, INQUIRER chair **Marixi Prieto**, Secretary **Luis Lorenzo**, Petron chair **Nicasio Alcantara**, former senator **Leticia Shahani** and former finance secretary **Roberto de Ocampo**.

EDI Tekeli with models

MILA Wales and Thelma Gana

ASSOCIATE Justice Artemio Panganiban, PDI chair Marixi Prieto and Ambassador Buckley

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador John Buckley and Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona lead guests in the ceremonial toast to mark the friendship between the Philippines and Australia during the Australia National Day.

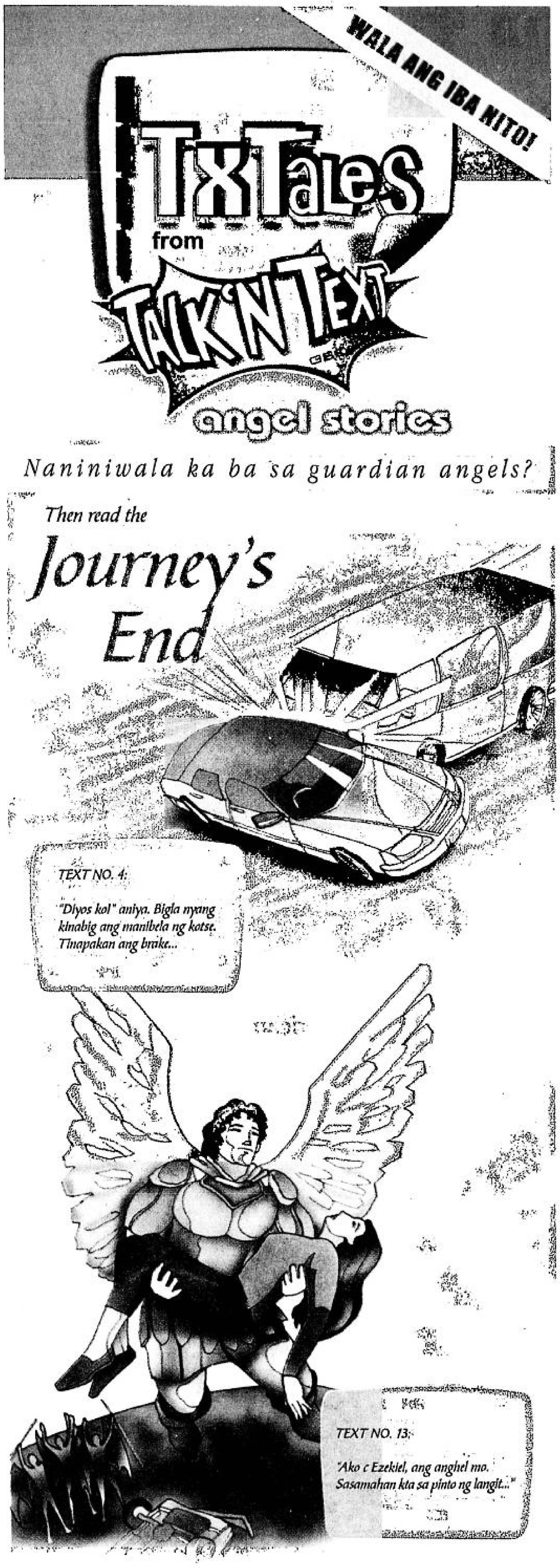
# Acting classes under Juilliard-trained actress

ANA Valdes Lim opens new acting classes beginning Feb. 6. A graduate of the Juilliard School in New York, Ana recently returned to Manila after living for four years in Los Angeles, California.

The author of "Workshop: A Manual on Acting" by Anvil Publishing Inc., Ana will be teaching improvisation, scene study, masks and stage voice techniques. Classes are held the new studio at 1269 Batangas St., Makati. Call 879-8230 or (0917) 899-8158.

A Juilliard theater graduate, Ana comes from the school of Robin Williams, Kevin Spacey, Ving Rhames, Bradley Whitford, Kevin Kline, William Hurt, Patti Lupone, Mandy Patinkin and Jean Tripplehorn.

Ana has performed with Joe Papp's Public Theater and the New York Shakespeare Festival in "Romeo and Juliet" and "As You Like It." She played Liat in "South Pacific" at New York City Opera, Lincoln Center. She was an actress and teacher for John Houseman's Acting Company tour, where she performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and taught workshops at UCLA. On film she starred with Dennis Dun and Victor Wong in John Carpenter's "Prince of Darkness." She played Ming Na Wen's young mother in CBS' "As The World Turns." Most recently Ana worked with Chay Yew at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. Ana will also resume teaching for CCP's Tanghalang Filipino.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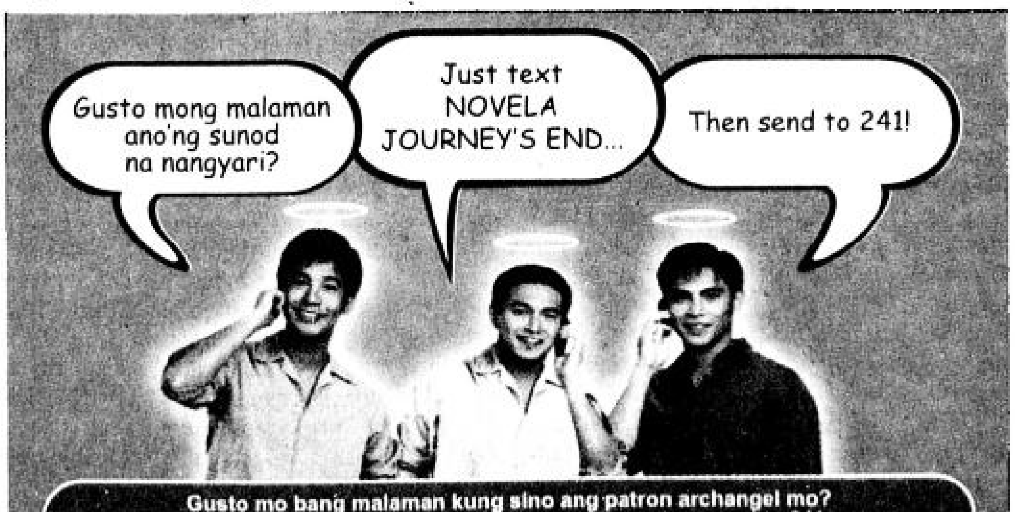
angel stories
Naniniwala ka ba sa guardian angels?
Then read the
Journey's End
TEXT NO. 4:
"Diyos ko!" aniya. Bigla nyang kinabig ang manibela ng kotse. Tinapakan ang brake...
TEXT NO. 13:
"Ako c Ezekiel, ang anghel mo. Sasamahan kta sa pinto ng langit..."

Sino ang babaeng naaksidente? Ibalik pa kaya siya ng guardian angel sa lupa o tuluyang ihahatid sa langit?


Gusto mong malaman ano'ng sunod na nangyari?
Just text NOVELA JOURNEY'S END...
Then send to 241!

Gusto mo bang malaman kung sino ang patron archangel mo?
TYPE ANGEL <your date of birth mm dd yy> then send to 241

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# Toasts to Asia Society, Sto. Niño, Waipai, Belgium and Australia

**DIPLOMATIC SWIRL**

*Amiga*

**DORIS Magsaysay Ho**, chair of Asia Society Philippines, together with former US Ambassador **Nicholas Platt** and **Maurice Greenberg**, president and chair of the Asia Society, welcomed our jet-setting Pinoys to the reopening of the Park Avenue offices of Asia Society in New York last November. Special guest was President **Macapagal-Arroyo**. She was with her party that included Senators **Nene Pimentel**, **Franklin Drilon** and **Loren Legarda**, **Nene Quiamson**, Mr. and Ms **Sikatuna** (if I got that wrong, blame it on the DFA), **Josie** and **Ken Natori**, and **Washington Sycip**.

* * *

In the meantime, Mang **Ben**, Mr. **Farrales** to the rest of the world, together with his faithful Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre del Niño Jesus, organized the 23rd annual Sto. Niño exhibit at the PNB building. Good friend **Melly Ablaza** was *hermana* and, assisted by devoted husband **Luis**, cut the ribbon opening the exhibit that was preceded by a Mass. Support the Congregacion by buying its handsome coffee-table book on the Sto. Niño available through Mang Ben and your favorite couturiers.

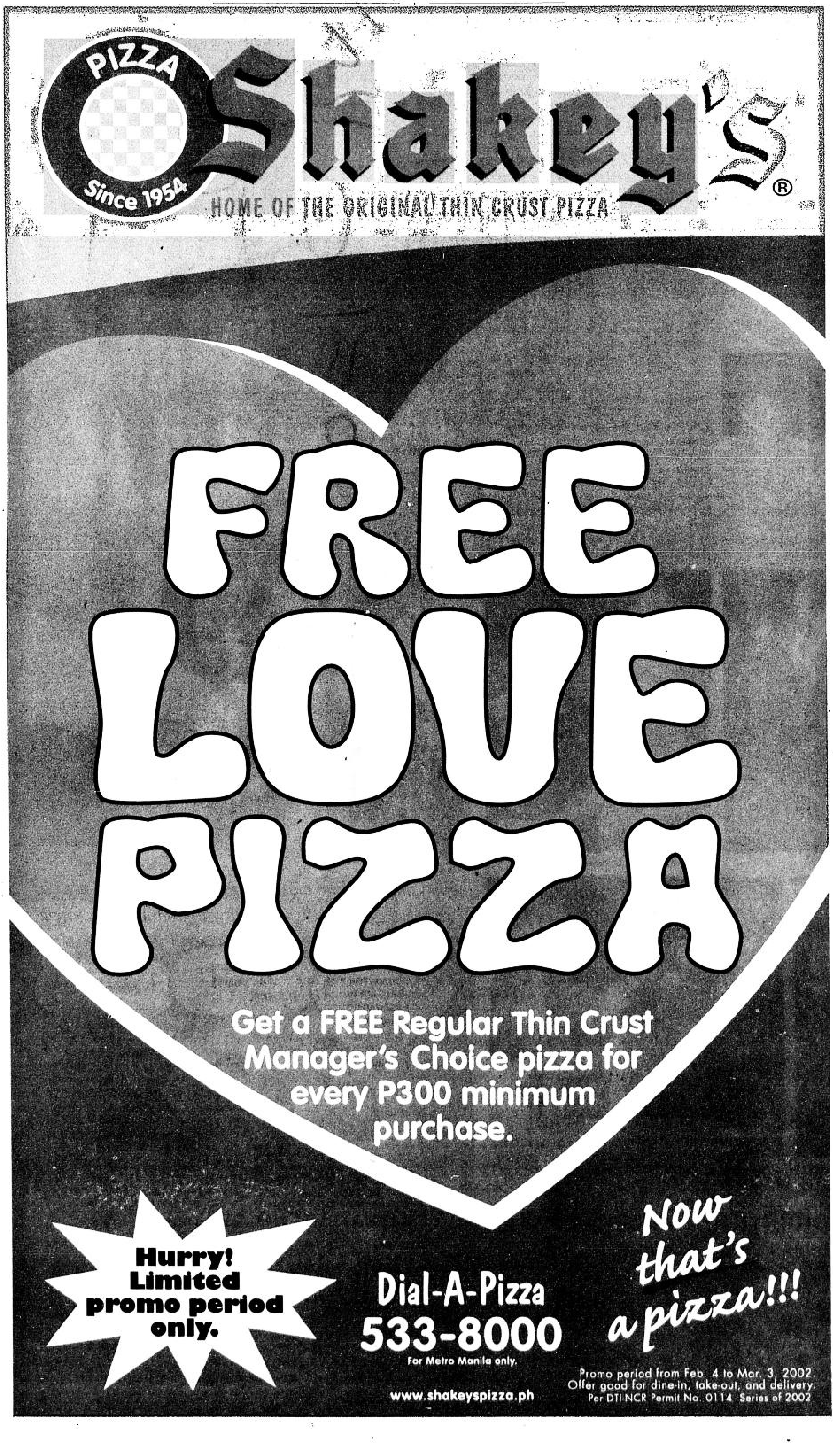
* * *

TOASTS/ p.D5

ANTONIO Go, Jesus Tambunting, Rica Romulo, Frank Wisner and Roberto Romulo

FORMER US Ambassador to the Philippines Frank Wisner with Washington Sycip, Christine Wisner and Joanne Benitez

KENNETH and Josie Natori with Endika Aboitiz



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Some say it with flowers and chocolates. Others with songs and greeting cards. This Valentine's season, go unconventional and brace yourself for a special treat!

This February, win the hearts of your loved ones and make the season of love more special by going beyond the passe. From **Shakey's**, the home of the famous original thin crust pizza, comes the **FREE LOVE PIZZA** promo – a delightful way for you and your loved ones to enjoy your favorite pizza, pasta, and chicken, plus a bonus pizza treat.

For only a minimum purchase of P300, Shakey's customers will get a regular thin crust Manager's Choice pizza, absolutely FREE! The promo, which will run for a limited period starting **February 4, 2002**, is open for dine-in, take-out, and delivery.

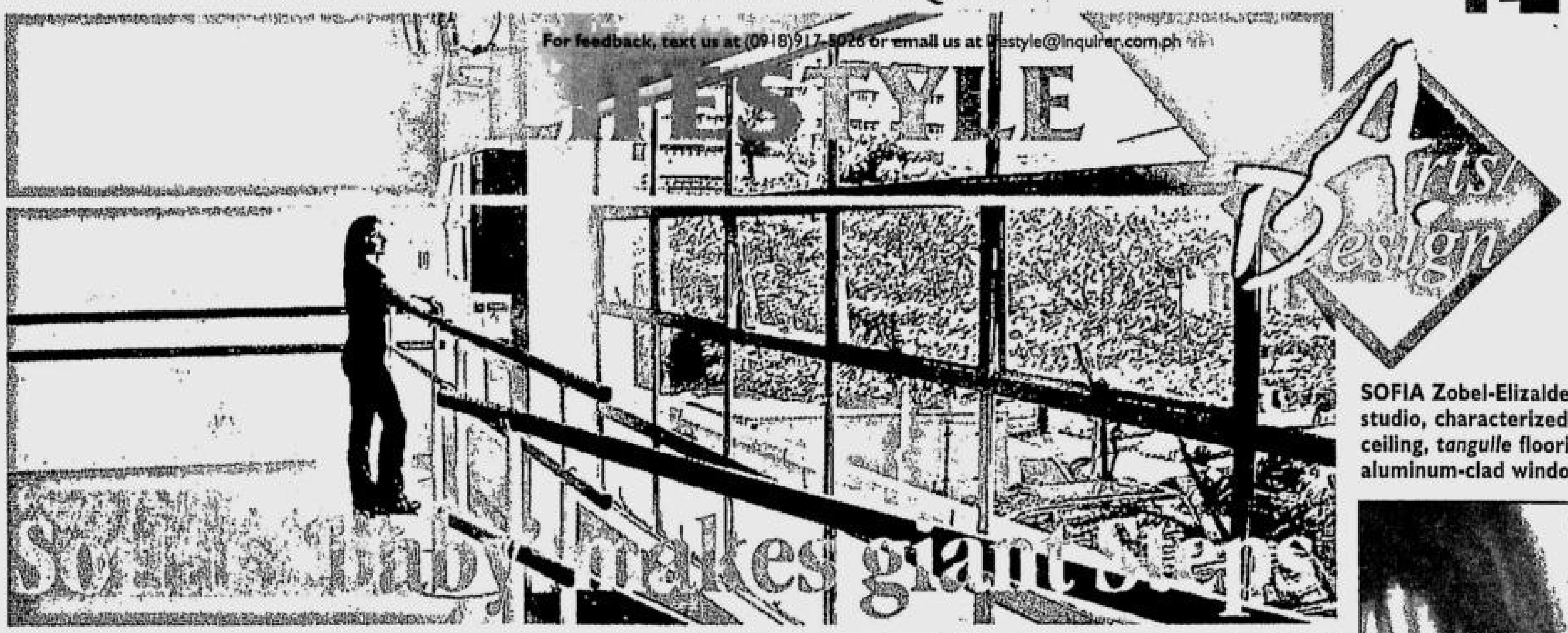
So what are you waiting for? Grab a phone and dial the hotline or visit your nearest Shakey's outlet and treat yourself to a dose of total love pizza experience. At Shakey's, say it with pizza!

For delivery call Dial-A-Pizza 533-8000 or visit Shakey's website at www.shakeyspizza.ph.

For details, please .contact: Vicky S. Ras, Corporate Communications Manager, Tel. No.: 839-0011 loc. 206, E-mail: vickyras79@edsamail.com.ph.

SHAKEY'S, home of the original thin crust pizza, and its celebrity endorser Carlos Agassi take pizza lovers to a month-long ride via the new Free Love Pizza Promo. Starting February 4, 2002, Shakey's customers will get a regular thin crust Manager's Choice pizza for free, for only a minimum purchase of P300. Promo runs for a limited period only. For delivery, please call Shakey's Dial-A-Pizza 533-8000 or visit the website at www.shakeyspizza.ph.

ADVT



# Sofia's baby makes giant Steps

SOFIA Zobel-Elizalde at the big studio, characterized by high ceiling, *tangulle* flooring and aluminum-clad windows

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina
VISUAL CONCEPT ALBERT AVELLANA

RIGHT after getting married to businessman Patxi Elizalde, dancer Sofia Zobel started working on her first baby. Make that two. The first was a son; the second was a dance studio, Steps.

The school had two locations in Makati until she finally found the ideal place in Karivin Plaza, a multi-use complex at the end of Pasong Tamo Extension.

Many of Steps students had been prodding Sofia that there was a need for a dance studio close to Forbes Park, Dasmariñas and San Lorenzo villages. Besides, her former studios lacked showers and an atmosphere that evoked professionalism.

Architect Melinda "Popi" Laudico was commissioned to design a two-story, 480-sq-m building that not only served the dancers' purpose, but also provided a relaxing and educational ambience to visitors.

The new Steps is arguably the best-designed dance studio hereabout. The design is characterized by sleek lines, glass walls that allow maximum natural light, neutral colors, ergonomically designed floors, and luxurious shower rooms in granite.

## Relaxing ambience

"The primary spaces are the three studios. Their size, configuration, height, floor construction, temperature, lighting, acoustics and amenities were all non-negotiable as far as Sofia's exacting

SOFIA'S/ p.E3

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**ZITA** Feliciano, Imelda Cojuangco and Danny Dolor

**RACHELLE** Gerodias, National Artist Leonor Goquingco and Maritess Pineda

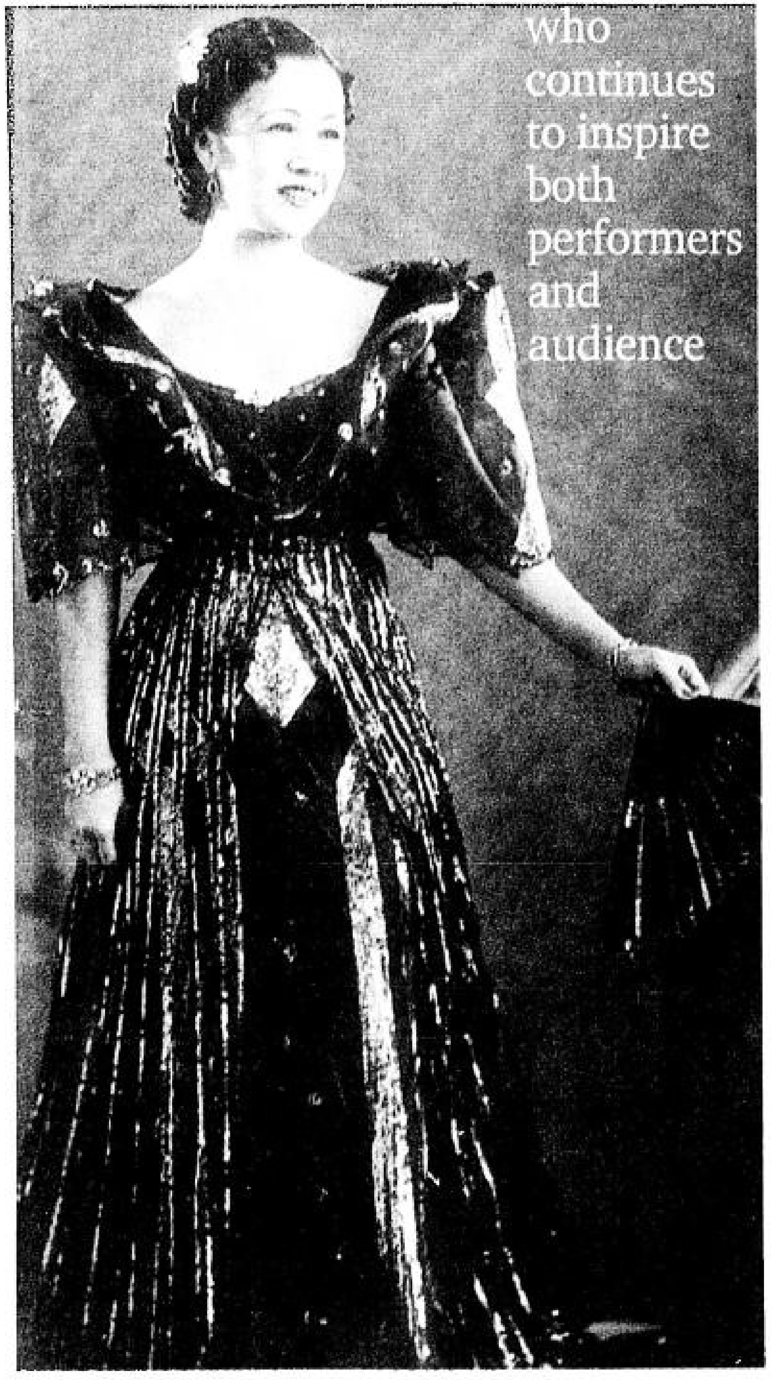
**TANINI** de Leon, Gloria Coronel, Norma Virtucio and Mercedes Lising

# Concert tribute relives glory years of Atang de la Rama

**By Rodolfo A.G. Silvestre Jr.**
*Contributor*

THE COUNTRY'S culturati and glitterati fused into a captivated audience the afternoon Danny Dolor and the Tribung Pilipino Cultural Foundation paid tribute to National Artist Honorata "Atang" de la Rama, the Queen of Zarzuela and Kundiman, at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino.

> As in her signature song, 'Bituing Marikit,' the National Artist remains a shining star who continues to inspire both performers and audience



**LEMUEL** de la Cruz, Vladimir Valera, Lulu Francisco, Gloria Coronel, Rachelle Gerodias and Lisa Cabahug

**PITOY** Moreno and Nelly Gonzales

**NATIONAL** Artist Nick Joaquin (far left) joins the ovation.

**AMBASSADOR** Manuel Yan

"Handog kay Atang" turned out to be a trip down memory lane for the audience as Maria Rachelle Gerodias led soprano Liza Cabahug and tenor Lemuel de la Cruz in a soulful rendition of "Dalagang Pilipina," "Ay! Kalisud" and "Anak Dalita." In period costumes designed by haute couture dean Ben Farrales, she filled the theater with her haunting versions of "Nasaan Ka Irog," "Mutya ng Pasig" and "Anak Dalita."

### Musical treasures

"Bituing Marikit," Ka Atang's signature song, served as curtain opener and left the audience nostalgic and in anticipation of such musical treasures as "Masayang Dalaga," "Kundiman ng Lahi" and "Madaling Araw."

Not surprisingly, Tribung Pinoy original members Gloria Dizon Coronel, Lulu Francisco and baritone Vladimir Valera wowed the audience as they joined Gerodias, Cabahug and De la Cruz in the light and fancy "Nabasag ang Banga." In response to requests for encores, they performed such toe-tapping compositions as "Mamayang Hatinggabi" and "Ikaw ang Mahal Ko," as if to remind the audience that Ka Atang, nationalist and feminist that she was, did have time for such lilting vocal exercises.

**ALELI** Marcelino

A highlight of the evening was the response of Aleli Marcelino, delivered on behalf of Ka Atang's family. At the outset, she requested the audience to rise to acknowledge art patron Danny Dolor. She recalled that the late National Artist considered Dolor and former CCP artistic director Nick Tiongson as "adopted sons" with whom she shared stories of her glorious moments in Philippine theater. She noted that if it were not for the likes of Dolor, who has been consistent in his efforts toward the promotion of Philippine traditional music, her grandmother would have been long forgotten by the Filipino people.

### Patrons

In the enraptured audience were National Artists Nick Joaquin and Leonor Orosa Goquingco, art patroness Imelda Cojuangco and art critic Rosalinda Orosa.

Other art patrons and enthusiasts who attended the concert were Kababaihang Rizalista president Helen Orosa del Rosario, First Lady of Philippine Radio Dely Magpayo, CCP trustees Irma Potenciano and Lina F. Litton, National Historical Institute chair Pablo Trillana III, former Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata.

Academicians who lent their presence included national scientist Dr. Paulo C. Campos of the Emilio Aguinaldo College, professor and art mover Rustica Carpio of the Far Eastern University, Emelita Almosara of the National Historical Institute, and Lulu Sanchez of the University of the East.

From the music world came Nena Cuenco, widow of the late National Artist Ernani Cuenco; and the everlasting trio of the 1950s, a.k.a. the Mabuhay Singers Rae Lucero, Rita Rivera and Cely Bautista.

Socialites and art benefactors in attendance were Zita Feliciano, Luz Santos, Ambassador Manuel and Eloy Yan, Nellie Gonzales, Sonya Mathay, Corina Caparas, Lulu Castañeda, Alice Yulo-Laurel, Justa Tantoco, diplomats Evie Costa and Fortune Ledesma.

Fashion designers Pitoy Moreno, Nolie Hans and, of course, Farrales as well as antique dealers Viring de Asis and Terry Baylosis lent more prestige to the assemblage, even as Danny Dolor's fellow Batangueños were led by no less than tycoon Feliciano Torres, art patron Tony Pastor and interior designer Roland Laurena.

Completing the diverse crowd were representatives of the Ka Amado Hernandez Center, Komisyon ng Wikang Pambansa, Philippine Historical Society, Immaculate Conception Academy of Tondo, Missionary Catechists of Saint Therese, Lipa Tourism Council, Kababaihan ng Parañaque, Kababaihan ng Tondo headed by Avelina Castañeda.

Also present were the featured artists' colleagues and students from the UST Conservatory of Music and the UP College of Music. Lending support to Dolor were Tribung Pilipino's Reynaldo Torres, friend Lody Tan and his niece Tanini Serrano de Leon.

### Campus tour

"Handog kay Atang" returns to the CCP when the Cofradia de la Virgen Maria, headed by founder Imelda Cojuangco, sponsors an invitational performance on March 12. Dolor and the Tribung Pilipino Cultural Foundation will then go on a campus lecture-concert tour at the FEU, Emilio Aguinaldo College and Immaculate Conception Academy of Tondo before the school year ends.

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# Love's follies and Job's faith

**By Cora Llamas**
*Contributor*

JUDGING from the long lines entering the premiere showing of Actor's Actors Inc.'s (AAI) "Promises, Promises," Onstage Greenbelt Theater just might become a major player in the growing theater industry.

**REVIEWS**

Aside from the media people and well-wishing fellow artists and kin of members of the production, the Burt Bacharach musical also drew in a lot of the yuppies and business people normally seen flocking to the concerts and the latest movie hits.

Here's hoping the trend continues. The lack of a regular venue has hindered many theater companies from putting up a good show or planning for a new season. Onstage in very accessible Makati, situated strategically in the comforts of a shopping complex, can easily fill in this lack and perhaps introduce the art to the non-theatergoing mall crowd.

It's also about time that AAI attract its fair share of the audience. Some of its thinking-man plays suffered empty seats due to hard-to-find or perpetually changing venues.

Yet, for all the glitzy stage lights and enthusiastic crowd, "Promises, Promises" hardly indicates that AAI is going mainstream (e.g. "commercial"). Neil Simon's predictable boy-wins-girl plot may swing to the tune of the bubbly Bacharach music amid the swinging '60s, but a closer look shows that the strength of this particular musical production is in its dramatic-comedic narrative, not the music.

**RACHEL** Alejandro with Lee Robin Salazar and Michael Williams

At least during opening night, the dance numbers were still unpolished. During the first act, many of the ensemble still looked awkward in their moves, a few even stumbling on their cues. Fortunately, they found their footing during the second act.

The flaw, though, was easily overridden by the engaging drama. Without watering down the humor, director Bart Guingona keeps in AAI's trademark ironic look at the human condition while restraining his usual dark intensity.

Despite the miniskirts and hairdos, flower power color, LSD allusions and politically incorrect sexual mores, this '60s-set musical is far from being just another nostalgia trip.

Lovable underdog Chuck Baxter's (Michael Williams) fight to find his place in the sun in the face of cynical odds still slices emotionally with its relevance. Like Guingona, Williams manages a delicate juggling act, refusing to stick to the amusing lovestruck-boy stereotype.

While his punchlines and pratfalls are delivered with impeccable timing, his wonderfully expressive face—timid and foolhardy, kissing ass while struggling to do the right thing—allows us to grow with his character. His courage at the climax does not spring overnight. Yet, he keeps the tone always light, making the audience think, while never dragging the material down into a solemnity that would have ruined it.

Rachel Alejandro's Fran, the victimized trophy girl, also rises wonderfully above stereotype. In the hands of a lesser actress, the character could have been played as a pitiful doormat. But Alejandro, last seen as strong, modern, bitchy women in "Rent" and "Firewater-woman," surprisingly plays demure with depth and substance. Her falling in love with Chuck, with some help from a worldly-wise but doting doctor (Bernardo Bernardo), is gradual and credible. This creates some suspense for the choices she makes at the end: stay with the heartless tycoon or run away with the noble failure.

Along with the Chuck-Fran ditty "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," Alejandro's soulful "Knowing When to Leave" is easily the most applauded. The heart-searching solos easily outshine the raucous, loud pieces. One of them even momentarily humanizes the villain, corporate tyrant and womanizer Mr. Sheldrick.

After many similar roles, Lee Robin Salazar can play slick, seductive and soulless to a T. But his "Wanting Things" bares open the heart of a man who is also a captive of his times.

It's just one of a few sly surprises of "Promises, Promises," which definitely cracks the stereotype.

### 'God's Favorite'

Neil Simon turns his sharp blades of comedy at the Bible. Directed by Baby Barredo, Repertory Philippines' production of "God's Favorite" becomes a modern merry-go-round around the tribulations of Job, here renamed Joe Benjamin (Miguel Faustmann). God tests this businessman's faith, and he soon loses his house, his wealth, the love of his kooky wife Rose (Anna Lita Zialcita), and his three kids, rebellious David (Lorenz Martinez) and scatterbrained Ben (Topper Fabregas) and Sarah (Myrene Hernandez). Of course, all this happens with fanfare and a lot of humorous weeping and gnashing, amidst the deceitful eyes of an angel, played by Jeremy Domingo like a used-car salesman.

**MIGUEL** Faustmann amid humorous weeping and gnashing

> Actor's Actors' 'Promises, Promises' and Repertory's 'God's Favorite' are antidotes to a cynical age

Baby Barredo moves the pace jauntily along. However, no one doubts how the ending will turn out, especially when through fire, bankruptcy and boils, Miguel Faustmann keeps his jolly-uncle face smiling crackedly throughout.

There is one moment of surprise, though: when the audience finds out the one thing that can cause Joe to renounce his God. It jars like a bump down a fast, smooth lane. But in that one jolting second, Simon's superficial wit disappears, supplanted by the provocative, timeless dilemma that the Bible taught through Job.

*AAI's production of "Promises, Promises" runs on weekends at the Onstage Greenbelt Theater until Feb. 16. Call 563-5844. Repertory Philippines' production of "God's Favorite" runs at the RCBC Plaza until Feb. 10. Call 633-4821 to 25.]*

# Sofia's 'baby' makes giant Steps

From page E1

standards were concerned," explains Laudico.

"The design was in keeping with the image of the performance of serious, professional and highly competent training and fitness activities. The lines are clean and the colors are basic, in white and grays put together to evoke a dynamic backdrop to the variety of activity that is taking place."

"This is a continuation of my vision," says Sofia, "which is to offer a variety of classes to the Filipinos. There's a professional dancing upstairs, little children rehearsing in the smaller studio, and flamenco in the third studio. I've been inspired by the studios in New York and London. If you go to the dance studios, there are three different things like ballet, modern and jazz, happening at the same time."

Iñigo Elizalde designed a mural assemblage of Don Jaime Zobel's dance photos. The mural starts from the glass façade of the studio and continues to the lounge and staircase.

"The spirit of the studio is not only apparent in how it looks, but more importantly in how it consummates the whole experience of dance and fitness for the people it was designed for," says Laudico.

Upon entrance, you're in a different atmosphere. Inside the reception area, there are issues of Dance magazine for the students to read. Nannies and mothers can read the latest issues of Vogue and Marie Claire in the lounge.

"I'm a magazine junkie," says Sofia. "I subscribe to the latest magazines. So after reading them, I bring them here. At least, people are entertained while waiting."

For dance buffs, there are afternoon screenings of videos ranging from Royal Ballet's 1963 version of "Romeo and Juliet" with Margot Fonteyn and Nureyev, to the latest from Jiri Kylian.

"There's so much going on in the world and dancers haven't been exposed to them," says Sofia. The video collection gives them a chance to keep abreast with new works.

### Quality teachers

Because of the facilities and big studios, Steps has been a center for the Royal Academy of Dancing examinations held every summer.

"We put a lot of quality into our teaching. I believe in our teachers. Even for fitness classes, I use only professional dancers," says Sofia.

Bela Lipat teaches yoga. Moscow-trained Andrei Roslotsev teaches Latin fitness. Jazz dancer Liesl Laforteza teaches dance fitness and stretch and tone. Vanessa Garcia handles power boxing.

The adult ballet class for midlifers has been getting good attendance.

"People are turning to adult ballet as a form of exercise. It's easy for them to follow."

Sofia teaches the children's classes from the primary level till grade three. The children are between 5 and 11.

"I'm enjoying since I became a mother. I treat the students like my kids," says Sofia, who has a son and two daughters. "I have more patience now."

### Hub for artists

The school holds two shows a year. This year's summer workshop will culminate with a recital at the CCP Main Theater. Another major show is held at Glorietta's Activity Center.

Although most of Steps' students may seem "*sosyal*," Sofia has been generous in providing scholarships. Of the first batch, Jason Ignacio performs for two companies in New York. His brother Sydney is a company member of Philippine Ballet Theater.

"We have seven boys who get to do jazz, modern ballet, and a few female scholars. Our goal with Raul Sauz is to create professionals," says Sofia.

Although only 7 years old, the school has produced promising talents such as Jennifer Olayvar, who is a scholar in Ballet Manila; and Elizabeth Malaran, who was invited to join the Canadian tour of Chameleon Dance Company.

"Our students have gotten a lot of exposure, which is our main goal. We have to push them to go into companies," she says.

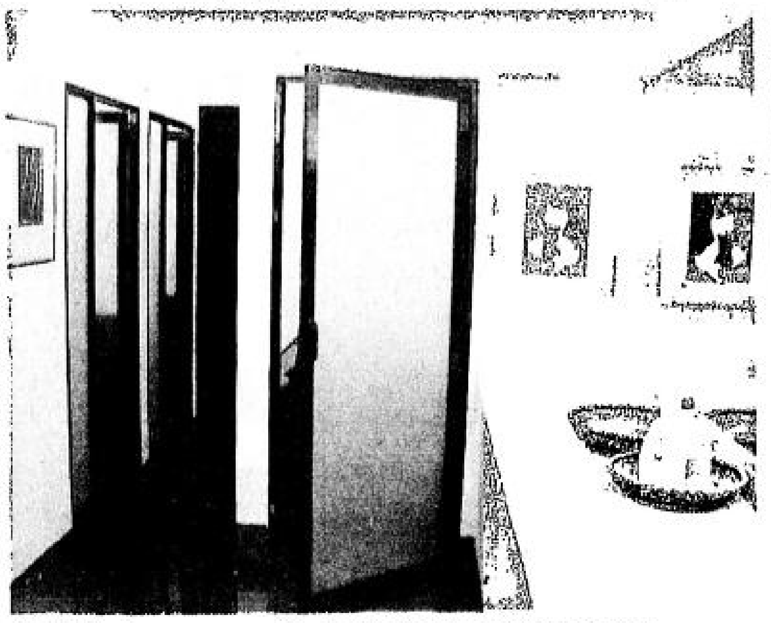
When other companies rent the studios, Sofia sees it as an opportunity for the students to watch the professionals rehearse.

"I wanted to create a nice hub for artists," she says.

This summer, Trumpets will offer musical theater and street dancing, and Bayanihan will teach folk dancing.

"I've wanted to create a place where students can have a wide variety of classes to choose from. Little by little we are achieving it," she says.

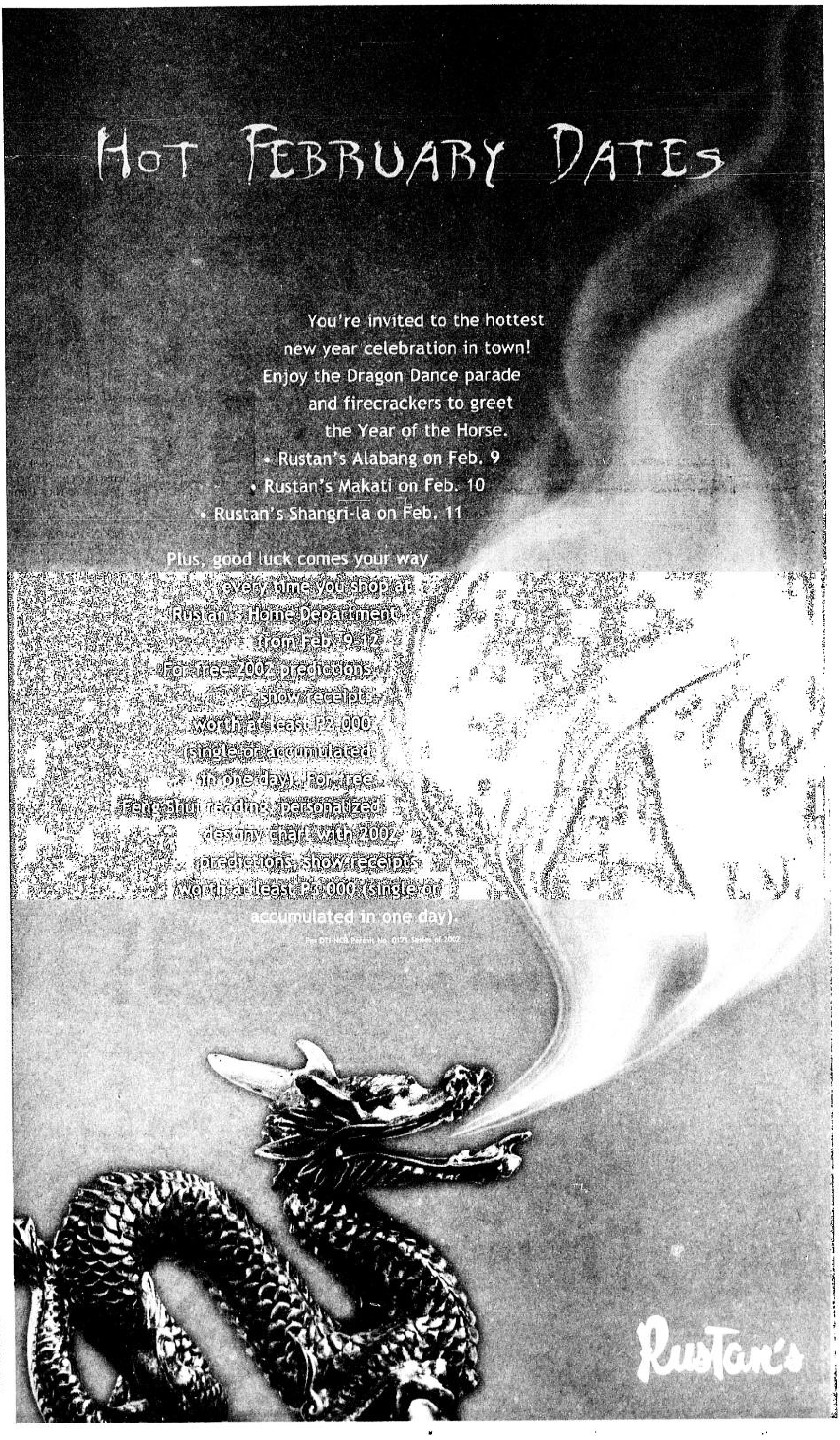
*Steps Studio is located at C1 Building, Karivin Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City; tel. 843-9472, 757-2994*



**CLASSY** shower area with granite floor and frosted glass partitions for the shower stalls and cubicles. Zobel's photographs adorn the wall.

**VISITORS** can relax on the leatherette chairs and sofas and read the latest magazines. The mural of dance photos by Don Jaime Zobel dominates the waiting lounge.

**WITH TEACHER** Raul Sauz, who trains the boys and the advance students



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- Rustan's Shangri-la on Feb. 11

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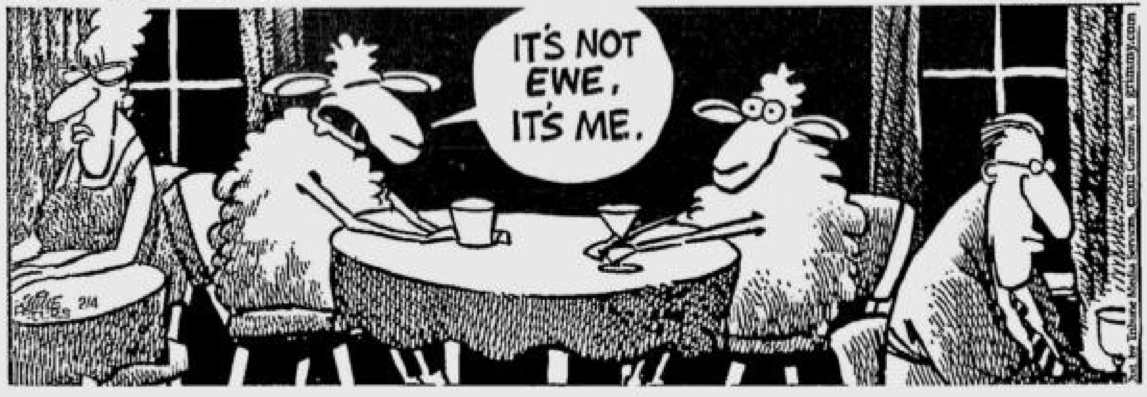
Rustan's Home Department
from Feb. 9-12.
For free 2002 predictions,
show receipts
worth at least P2,000
(single or accumulated
in one day). For free
Feng Shui reading, personalized
destiny chart with 2002
predictions, show receipts
worth at least P3,000 (single or
accumulated in one day).

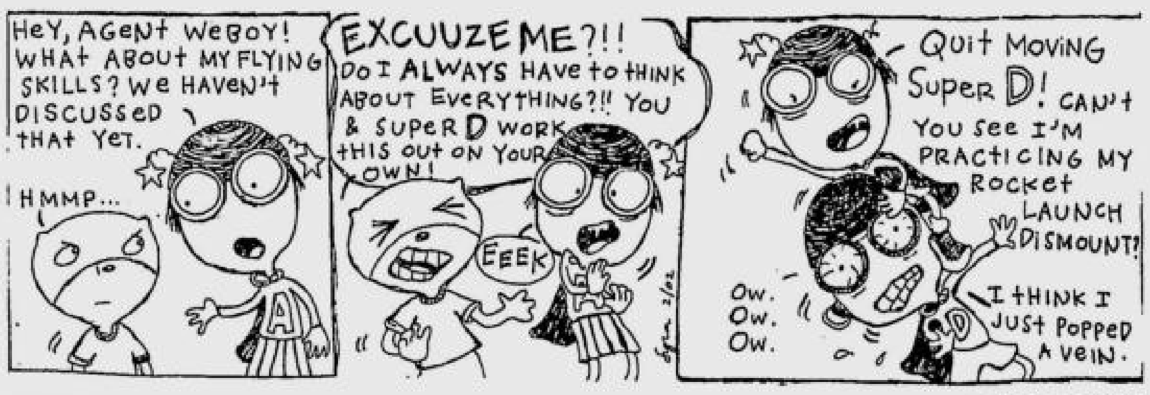
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0171 Series of 2002

Rustan's

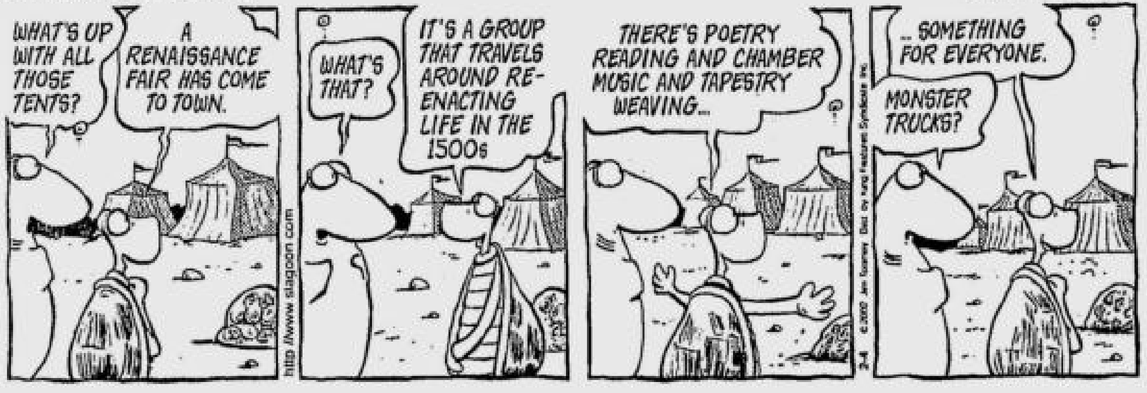
**MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM** BY MIKE PETERS


IT'S NOT EWE, IT'S ME.
PETERS 2/4

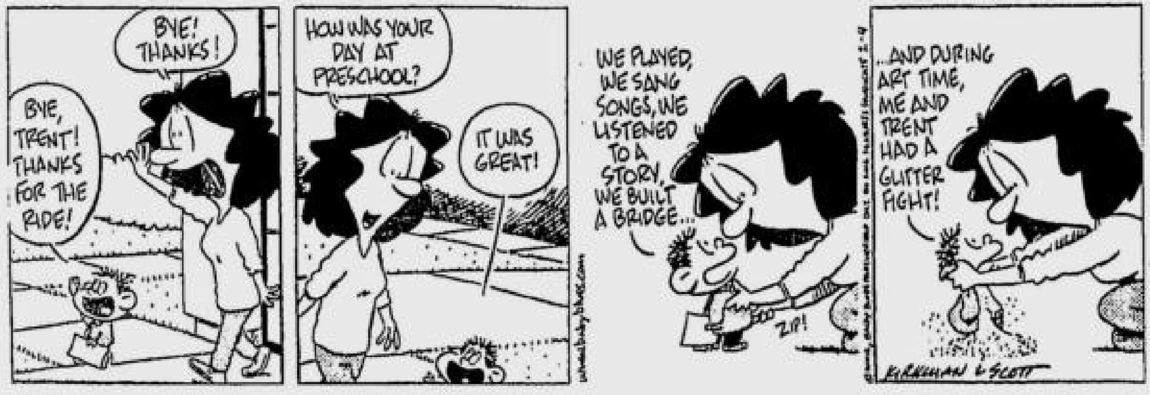
**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, AGENT WEBOY! WHAT ABOUT MY FLYING SKILLS? WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED THAT YET.
HMMP...
EXCUUZE ME?!! DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING?!! YOU & SUPER D WORK THIS OUT ON YOUR OWN!
EEEK
QUIT MOVING SUPER D! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M PRACTICING MY ROCKET LAUNCH DISMOUNT?
OW. OW. OW.
I THINK I JUST POPPED A VEIN.

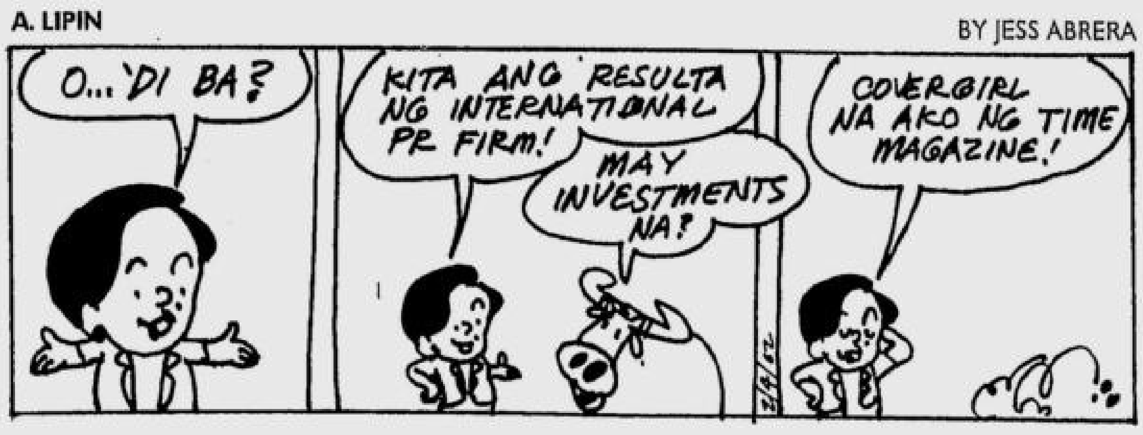
**SHERMAN'S LAGOON** BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THOSE TENTS?
A RENAISSANCE FAIR HAS COME TO TOWN.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A GROUP THAT TRAVELS AROUND RE-ENACTING LIFE IN THE 1500s
THERE'S POETRY READING AND CHAMBER MUSIC AND TAPESTRY WEAVING...
...SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.
MONSTER TRUCKS?
http://www.slagoon.com

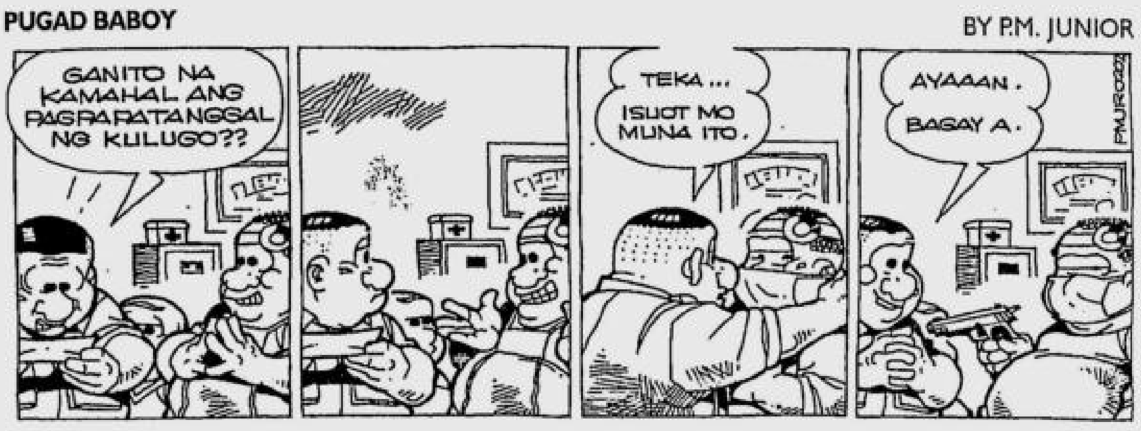
**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT


BYE! THANKS!
BYE, TRENT! THANKS FOR THE RIDE!
HOW WAS YOUR DAY AT PRESCHOOL?
IT WAS GREAT!
WE PLAYED, WE SANG SONGS, WE LISTENED TO A STORY, WE BUILT A BRIDGE...
ZIP!
...AND DURING ART TIME, ME AND TRENT HAD A GLITTER FIGHT!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

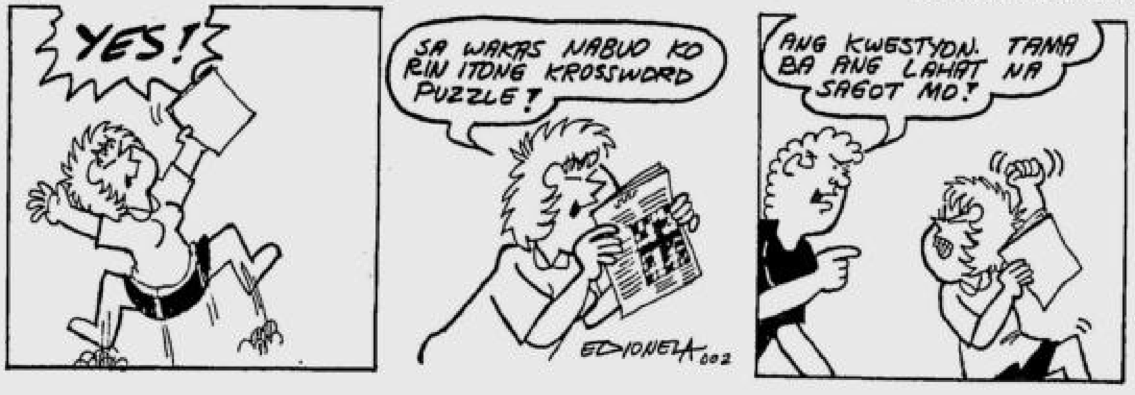
**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA


O... 'DI BA?
KITA ANG RESULTA NG INTERNATIONAL PR FIRM!
MAY INVESTMENTS NA?
COVERGIRL NA AKO NG TIME MAGAZINE!

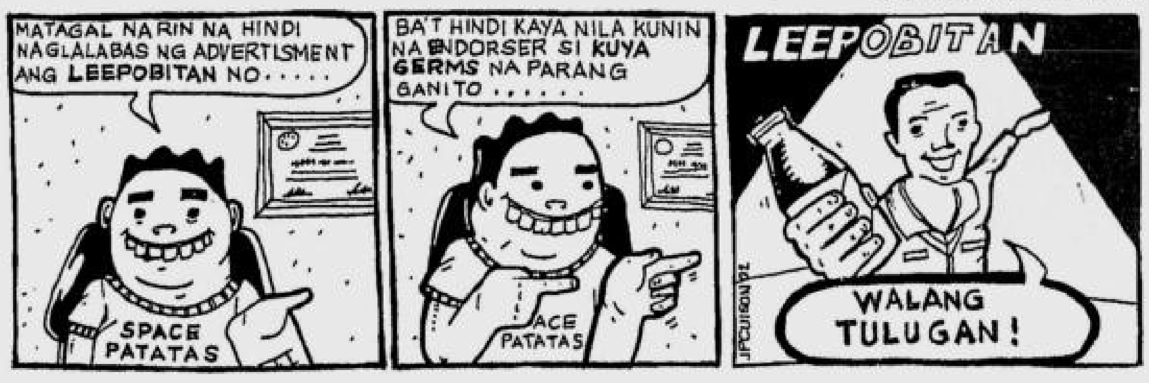
**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR


GANITO NA KAMAHAL ANG PAGPAPATANGGAL NG KULUGO??
TEKA... ISUOT MO MUNA ITO.
AYAAAN. BAGAY A.

**SIMO** BY EDGAR DIONELA


YES!
SA WAKAS NABUO KO RIN ITONG KROSSWORD PUZZLE!
ANG KWESTYON. TAMA BA ANG LAHAT NA SAGOT MO?
EDIONELA 002

**GARAPATA BLOOD** BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


MATAGAL NARIN NA HINDI NAGLALABAS NG ADVERTISMENT ANG LEEPOBITAN NO.....
SPACE PATATAS
BA'T HINDI KAYA NILA KUNIN NA ENDORSER SI KUYA GERMS NA PARANG GANITO.....
ACE PATATAS
LEEPOBITAN
WALANG TULUGAN!

## HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Pamela Franklin, David Brenner, Lisa Eichhorn, Oscar De La Hoya

**Happy Birthday:** Your emotional instability will make it difficult for you to get along with friends, relatives and peers but if you listen and observe you can benefit from other people's experiences. You will have to be well organized if you want to stay on track. Your numbers are 3, 17, 22, 25, 31, 45

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Talk to someone who may have an interest in partnering with you. Being frugal will be the first step toward financial recovery.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Being stubborn will only backfire on you today. Compromise or expect to have problems with whomever you deal with.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Put your time and effort into your work. Money will slip through your fingers if you aren't careful.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Get out and socialize and you will meet some interesting people. You will attract attention if you are warm, affectionate and kind to others.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Plan some indoor activity at your place. The more you do to help those you love, the better you will feel about yourself. Home improvement projects will turn out well.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Get out and interact with others. You can make headway if you are honest, upfront and to the point. Your ability to get along with others will help you .

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You have to be reasonable when it comes to your spending habits. If you aren't happy with your current career choice you should be checking out something more suitable.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Get involved in group discussions that will open your mind to all sorts of new information. Travel and getting involved with people from different backgrounds will be enlightening.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Get busy and do for yourself. You will not be let down if you take the initiative to finish what you start.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You have a lot to offer. If there is a cause you believe in, get involved and make a difference. Your outgoing nature will help you to help others.

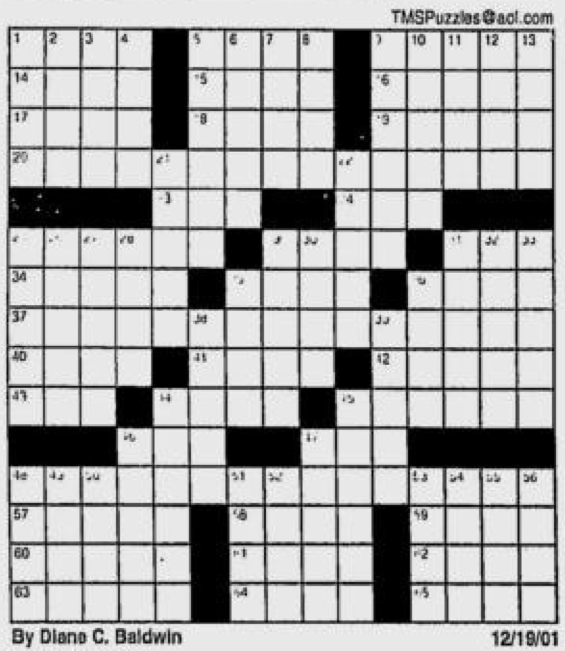
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't put up with a bully who has nothing nice to say about anyone. You need to take better care of yourself both physically and mentally.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Get out and meet new people who can offer you friendship and good conversation. New romantic partners will surface if you get out and about.

**Birthday Baby:** You are optimistic, cheerful, full of great ideas and always looking for adventure. You have no problem communicating and can usually captivate a crowd with your colorful personality.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

12/19/01

ACROSS
- 1 Makes a move
- 5 Unwelcome e-mail
- 9 Pilfer
- 14 Rubberneck
- 15 Long skirt
- 16 Nimble
- 17 Christmas trio
- 18 Old Masters medium
- 19 Make fuzzy
- 20 Refuse to budge
- 23 Coat a cake
- 24 __ Grande
- 25 Friendliness
- 29 Coalition
- 31 Sleepy's pal
- 34 In the offing
- 35 Diary divisions
- 36 Infamous Roman tyrant
- 37 Fails to act
- 40 Fox follower?
- 41 Bookie's concern
- 42 Unhinged
- 43 Auction finish?
- 44 Cry from the crow's-nest
- 45 Haughty expressions
- 46 Pother
- 47 Jiffy
- 48 Shirk work
- 57 Submerged
- 58 Give off
- 59 Top-notch
- 60 Old hat
- 61 Relinquish
- 62 Inner Hebrides isle
- 63 Great Lakes acronym
- 64 What's bent in a bow
- 65 Schoolbook

DOWN
- 1 Poor box contributions
- 2 Paint layer
- 3 Forum wear
- 4 What we tan
- 5 Spoon
- 6 "Common Sense" author
- 7 Wheels' connection
- 8 Overlook
- 9 Underlying structure
- 10 Home under a dome
- 11 Stead
- 12 Celtic group
- 13 Buffalo bunch
- 21 Same again
- 22 Flagrant
- 25 Haste result, perhaps
- 26 Blazing
- 27 Chopper feature
- 28 Nearly all
- 29 Toss about, as ideas
- 30 Soap-making ingredients
- 31 Compact
- 32 Opposite of chaos
- 33 Charges
- 35 Extinct bird of Mauritius
- 36 Scruff
- 38 Not in any way
- 39 Strong intuition
- 44 Idolizes
- 45 Bench with a back
- 46 Fashion designer Simpson
- 47 Maliciously derogatory
- 48 Luxuriant
- 49 Division word
- 50 Mild Dutch cheese
- 51 Small isthmus
- 52 Augury
- 53 Orient
- 54 Bit of humor
- 55 Chalcedony variety
- 56 Red shade

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | W | A | S | ■ | H | O | L | D | S | ■ | ■ | P | A | D |
| W | A | S | H | ■ | O | H | A | R | A | ■ | W | A | C | O |
| I | L | I | A | ■ | T | I | D | E | D | ■ | A | P | E | S |
| S | L | A | G | ■ | T | O | Y | S | ■ | G | L | A | D | E |
| T | A | N | G | L | E | ■ | A | S | C | O | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | Y | E | A | R | N | ■ | O | D | D | E | S | T |
| S | N | I | D | E | ■ | O | D | A | Y | ■ | I | S | L | E |
| T | O | D | O | S | ■ | S | T | L | ■ | O | S | S | I | E |
| A | G | O | G | ■ | A | S | H | E | ■ | K | N | O | T | S |
| B | O | S | S | E | D | ■ | E | X | I | L | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | V | S | E | T | ■ | D | A | Y | J | O | B |
| S | A | M | O | A | ■ | A | R | I | L | ■ | F | O | R | E |
| H | E | A | R | ■ | G | R | A | D | E | ■ | I | D | A | S |
| O | O | Z | Y | ■ | E | L | M | E | R | ■ | L | I | L | T |
| O | N | E | ■ | ■ | T | Y | P | E | S | ■ | M | E | S | S |

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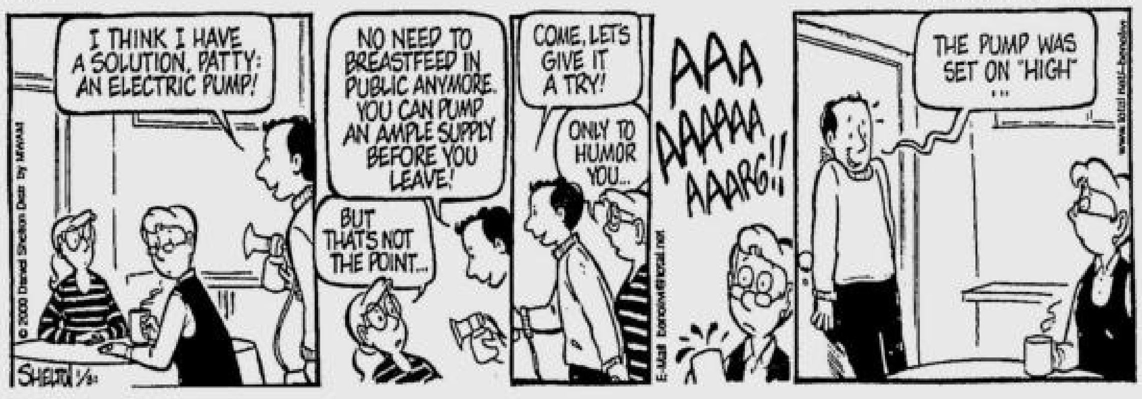
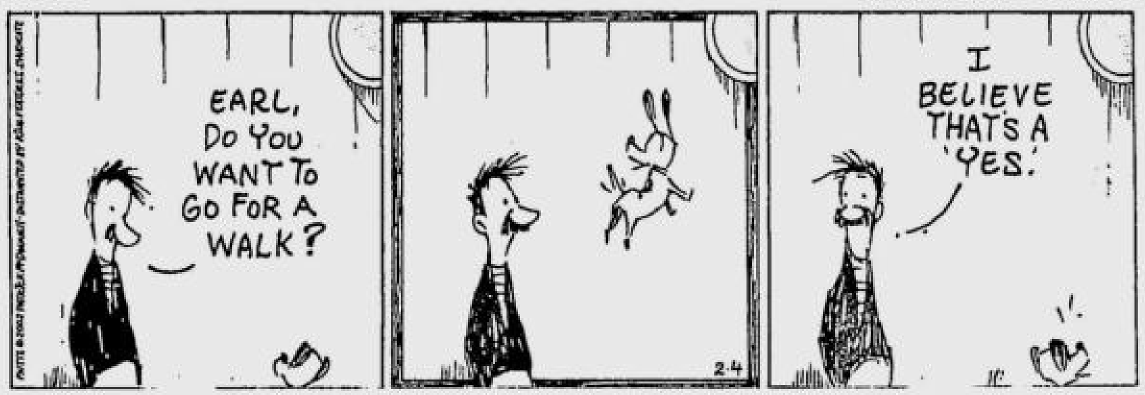
12/19/01

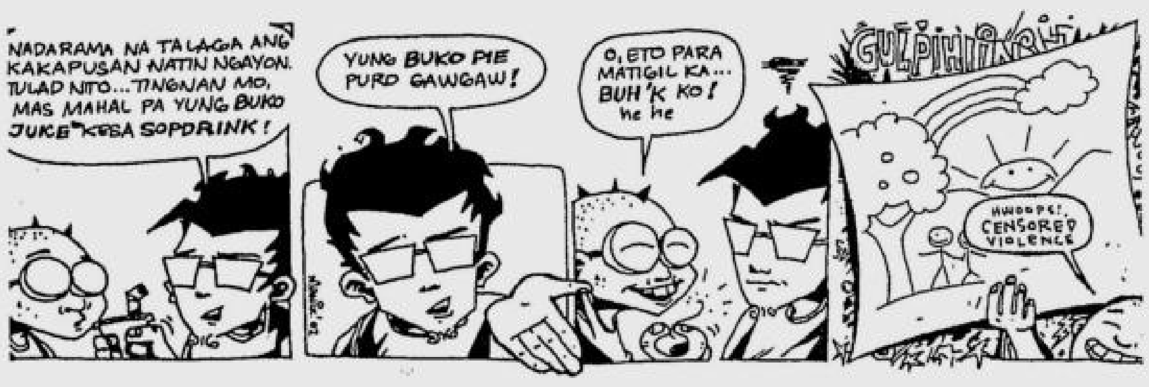
**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON


I THINK I HAVE A SOLUTION, PATTY: AN ELECTRIC PUMP!
NO NEED TO BREASTFEED IN PUBLIC ANYMORE. YOU CAN PUMP AN AMPLE SUPPLY BEFORE YOU LEAVE!
BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT...
COME, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY!
ONLY TO HUMOR YOU...
AAAAAAAA AAARG!!
THE PUMP WAS SET ON "HIGH" ...
SHELTON

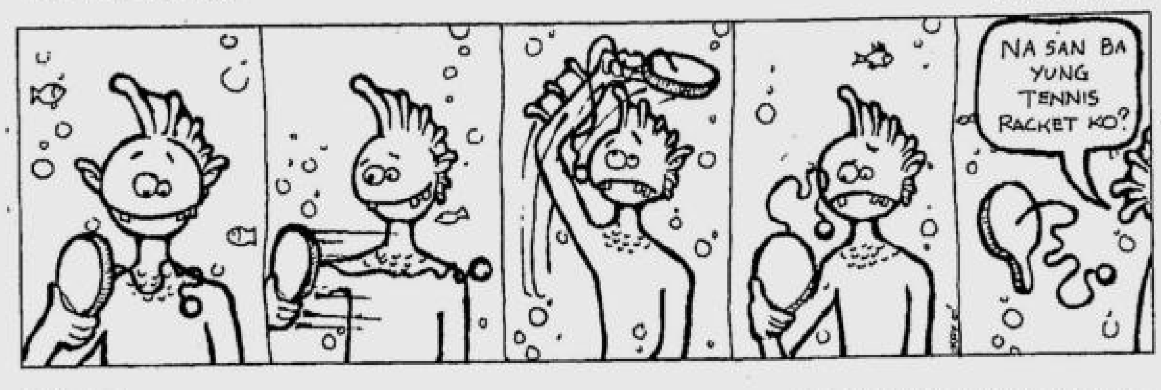
**MUTTS** BY PATRICK MCDONNELL


EARL, DO YOU WANT TO GO FOR A WALK?
2-4
I BELIEVE THAT'S A 'YES.'

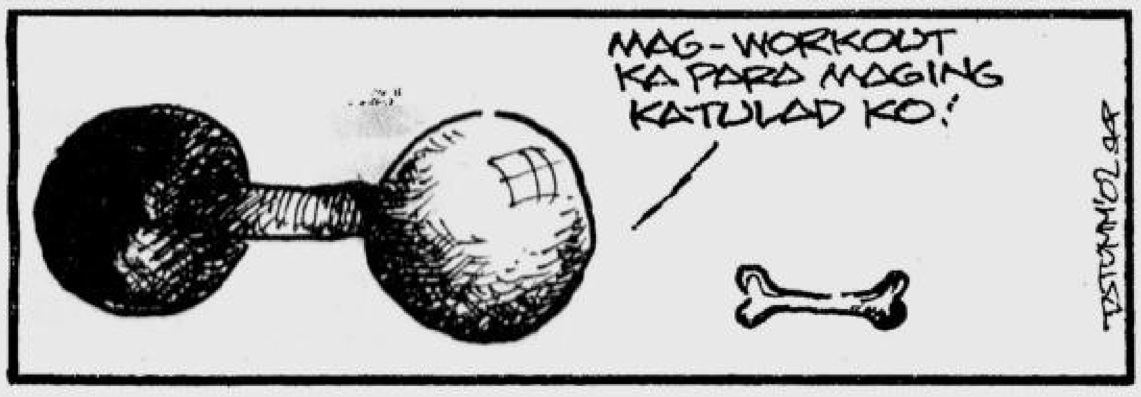
**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA


NADARAMA NA TALAGA ANG KAKAPUSAN NATIN NGAYON. TULAD NITO... TINGNAN MO, MAS MAHAL PA YUNG BUKO JUKE KESA SOPDRINK!
YUNG BUKO PIE PURO GAWGAW!
O, ETO PARA MATIGIL KA... BUH'K KO! he he
GULPIHIN
HWOOPS! CENSORED VIOLENCE

**CHICHOY CHOKOY** BY IKOY RICIO


NA SAN BA YUNG TENNIS RACKET KO?

**TULDOK** BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


MAG-WORKOUT KA PARA MAGING KATULAD KO!

# New art calendar preserves vanishing tradition

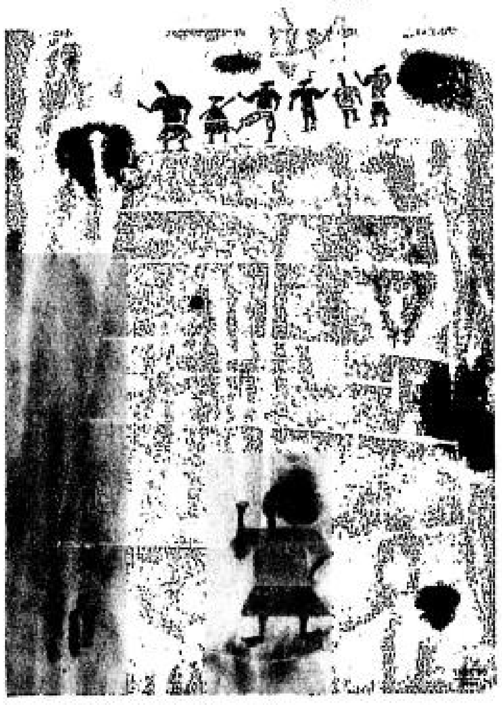
By Constantino C. Tejero

A NEW wall calendar has just accomplished two significant things for Philippine culture.

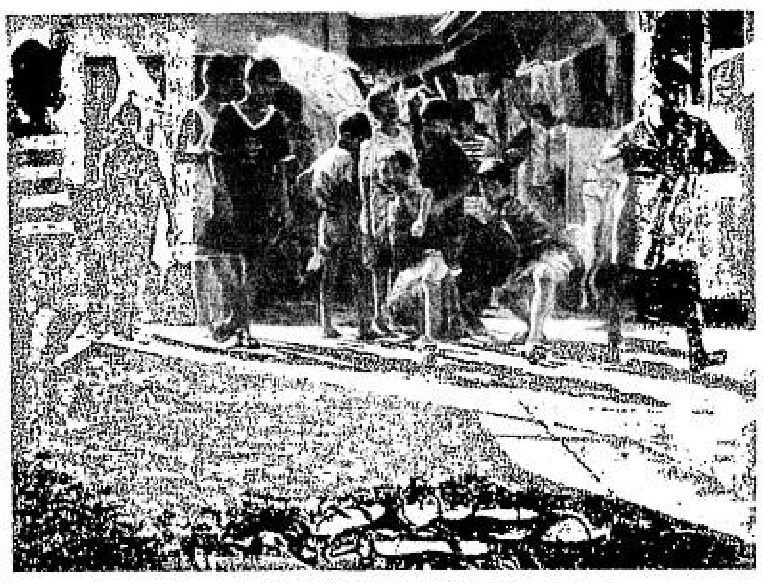
Featuring the winners of last year's ArtPetron National Student Art Competition in watercolor and oil/acrylic, it has preserved in glowing colors the traditional Filipino children's games that could soon vanish in the aggressive spread of cyberculture.

Just as importantly, it has pushed to the fore new names in the art scene.

The three watercolor winners our art critics may not put in the league of Ang Cacnio, Antipas Delotavo, Araceli Dans, Wong Shui Loong, but by their pieces we can see that they're going there.


"PIKO," by Yveese Belen

For the calendar's July and August leaves, it is "Karera ng Tsinelas," 22" x 46", by Romeo Forbes Jr. of the University of the East-Caloocan, a top view of moonfaced kids on *bancas*, straining toward the water as they set their slippers afloat. The piece, in its monochromatic wash of indigo with red specks and green streaks, has the visual appeal of a misty Chinese-brush painting.


"OBER-OBER," by Orley Ypon

For March and April, "Piko: Alay kay Mahal," 22" x 29", by Yveese Belen of the University of Santo Tomas, portrays kids as stick figures playing hopscotch in a wash of blue, green, ochre, with the red spot of a solitary figure on the foreground.

The kids stand on both ends of foreground and background, with more than half of the canvas occupied by the diagram scotched on the ground. The other kids seem too far from the solitary figure, but the lines of the diagram connect them, giving them some kind of interaction.

For November and December, it is "Sa Kanlungan ng Kamusmusan," 30" x 40", by Ricky Ambagan of the University of the Philippines Diliman, a merry mix of electric blue, neon-green, shocking pink and ripe yellow illustrating kids playing *kadang-kadang*, a race on bamboo-pole stilts.

The piece is highly stylized in its depiction of a fantasy childhood scene, with the canvas clogged by happy imagery. The faces look like Ati-atihan masks painted crimson and ochre, the elongated legs indistinguishable from the bamboo poles. Even the houses are on stilts, fronds and tree crowns are pink, branches yellow, and clouds and ground blue. The whole looks like an orchard a-burst with smiling fruits.

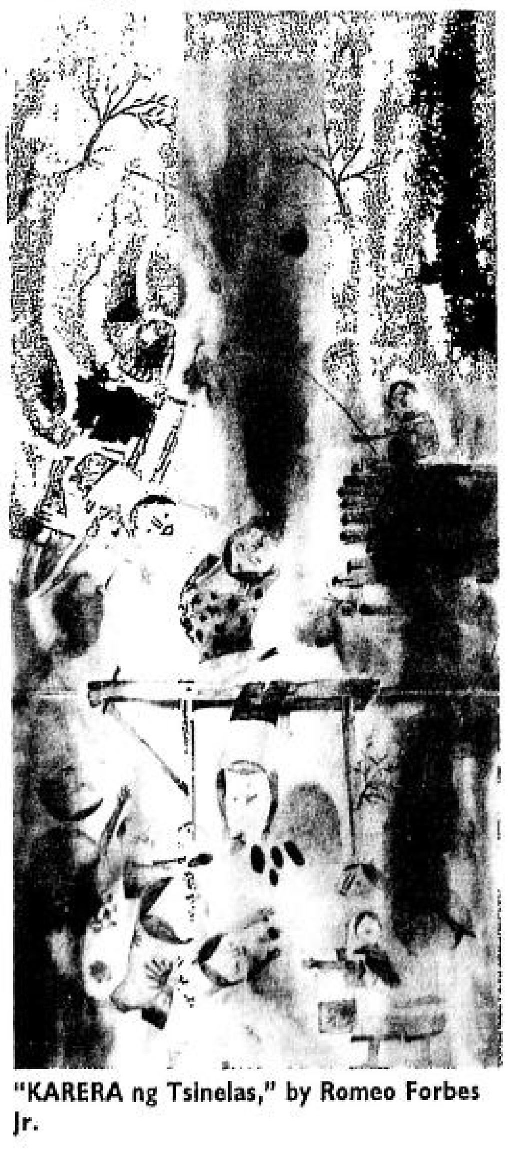
## Careful composition

Of the winners in the oil/acrylic category, these may not be the old masters but they're certainly young masters. The sureness of draftsmanship and the skill in coloration belie the artists' youth.

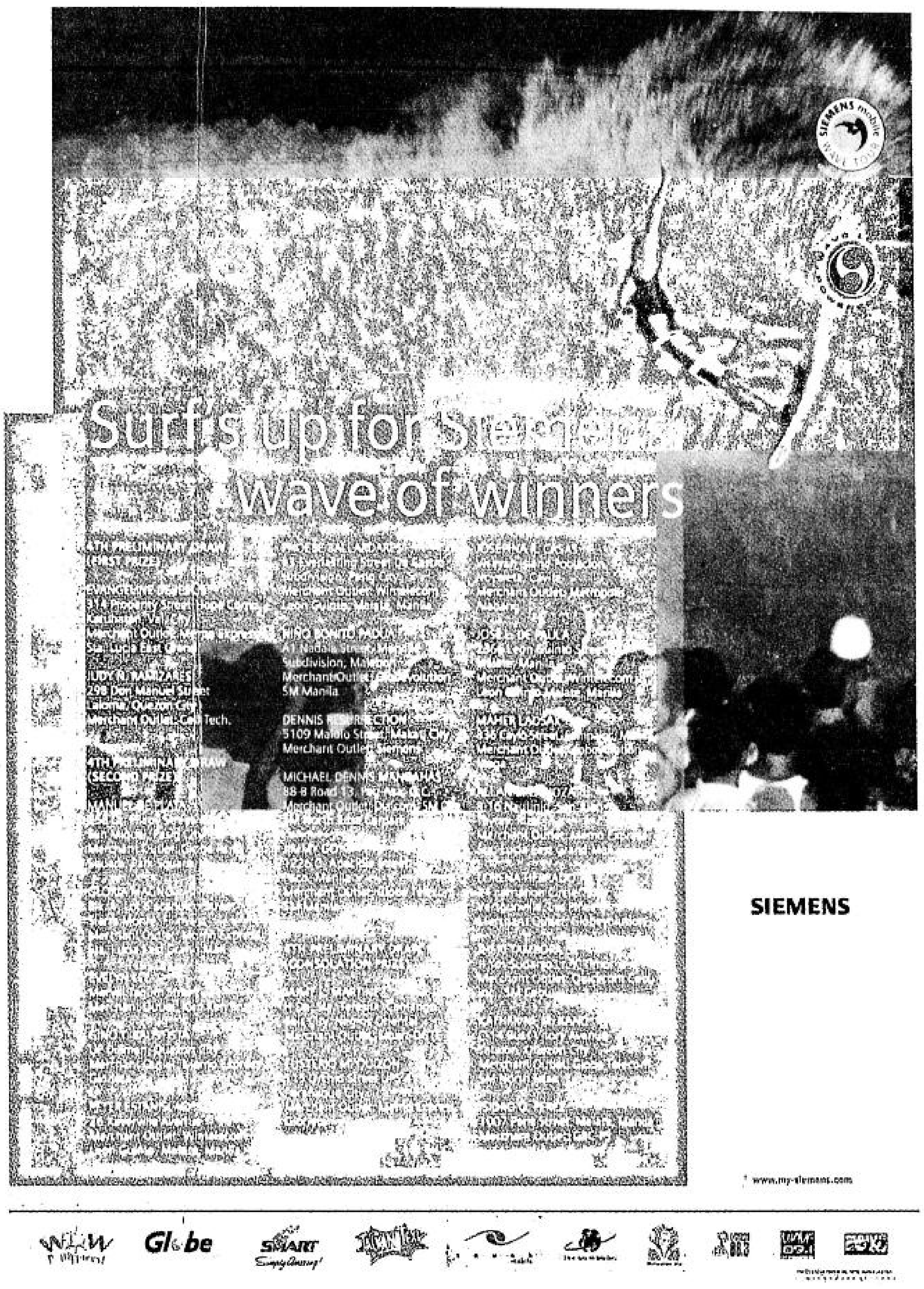
For January and February, "Tatsing," 34.5" x 43", by Romeo José Rosete III of UP Baguio, done in bold strokes of red, blue, yellow, pink, violet, orange and green, has the four players' big brown faces positioned close to the ground as they pry at the metal soda-bottle caps in a square. The boys' violent facial expressions and physical exertions, amusingly captured by the artist, are magnified by the redness of the ground, which makes the whole look like a bloody arena. (This game may soon become extinct since bottlers now prefer resealable plastic caps.)

For September and October, "Ober-Ober," 36" x 48", by Orley Ypon of Casa Gorordo, is a photographic rendition of 11 kids in a slipper game, with laundry hanging in the breeze, a white dog standing on its hind legs, and the figures of boys with browned and reddened faces highlighted by a setting sun.

The scene is carefully composed, like a low-angle shot in a movie. The background is congested with tenements, humans and hanging clothes, which is paralleled by the collection of slippers on the foreground, while the middle is empty pavement except for a giant shadow cast by an off-canvas building and the yellow light of an off-canvas sun.


"KARERA ng Tsinelas," by Romeo Forbes Jr.

NEW/ p.E8


Surf's up for Siemens' wave of winners

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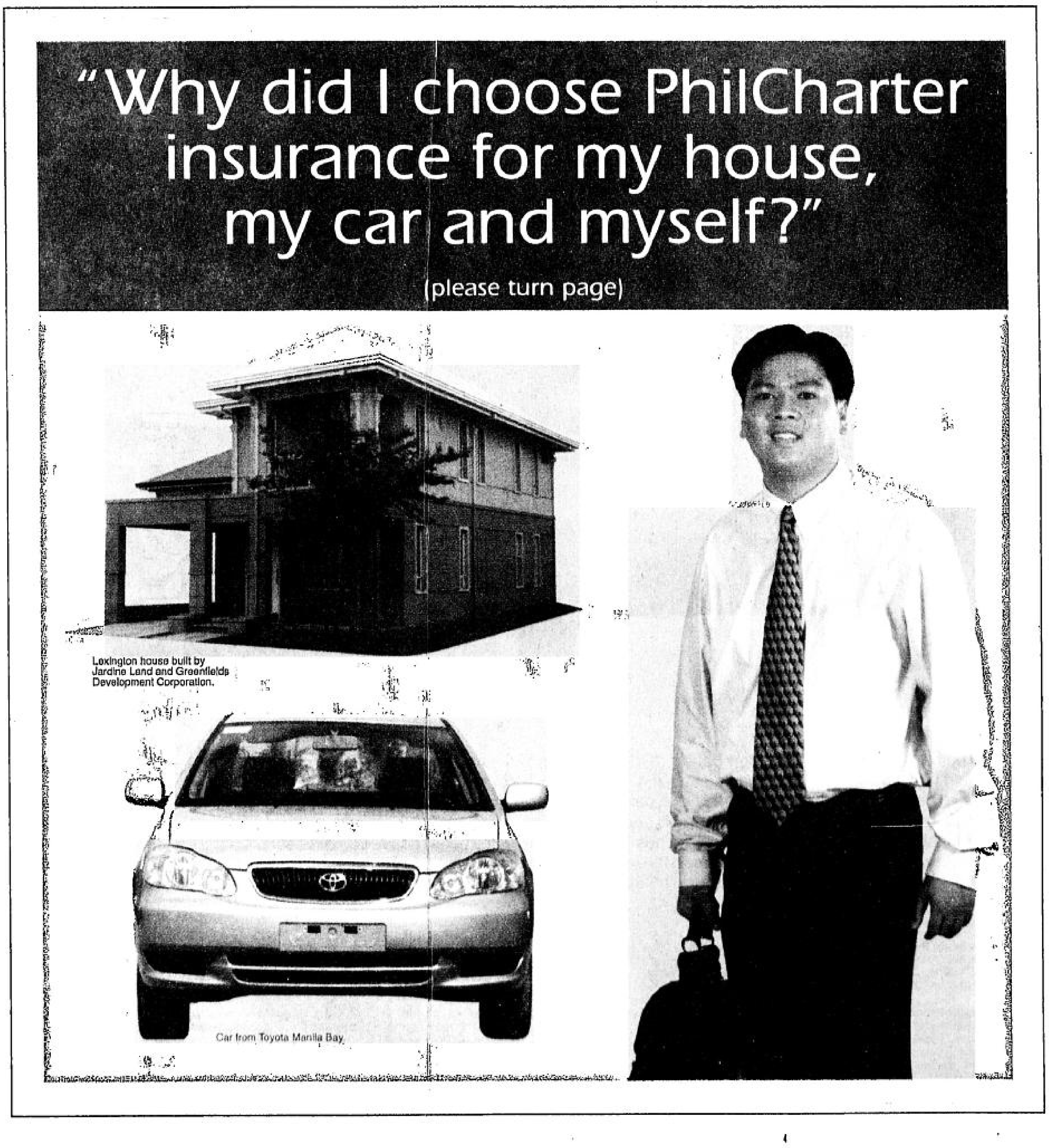
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(please turn page)

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### ART TART

# Coco at Kiko, Crystals at Rock

KIKO Escora is an artist after my own quilted Chanel purse. He gets me. And there are very few artists nowadays who do. I mean, Madame Coco's initials intertwined on a woman's chest connecting her bosom, as if to say one is never worth flaunting without the other—whether it's a solitary C, or one lonely left boob. It's almost as sad as Saint Laurent retiring from the couture.

Art Tart met him—Kiko, sweetie, not YSL—at "Deviant Slices," his most recent show at the Big and Small Art Co. in Megamall. If there is any truth to the phrase "suffering in style," Kiko is it. The *pobrecito* is so fabulously thin I almost force-fed him all the cheese pimiento sandwich the caterer prepared at the buffet table. If he gets sick, he should consult the crystal healer I met at the Rock Drilon show at the Art Center a few steps away and just a couple of weeks after (What keeps drawing me to Megamall these days? Must be the combo meals at Area: pasta, panini and the sight of freshly showered boys from Slimmer's. Art, honey, you never know when you'll bump into him—it, I mean.) Ces, Rock's wife, says Crystal Girl is a real find. She's so hot I almost asked her for a light.

While I booked my session with her on the spot, I noticed no one was looking at the art. Not Thelma San Juan sporting her fab new relaxed hair. Not Ed Calma with his Suzie. Maybe because Art Tart arrived a tad too late. An hour is not late, is it? But no one looking at the art. Only at each other, or each other's drinks. Art Tart being the serious art patroness she is, stopped Crystal Girl mid-mantra and took a quick grand tour of the exhibit, but couldn't quite figure out those loops! Lines! Curves! More wine, please. What could Rock be saying? The wine. All these layers of patches and colors. Still waiting for the wine. The only thing that made sense were those tiny little red dots that said: Sold! Or was that the last drop of red in my glass?

On my way out, an *amiga* grabbed my Chanel to ask, "So did you get any?" Oh, sweetie, but I have reservations.

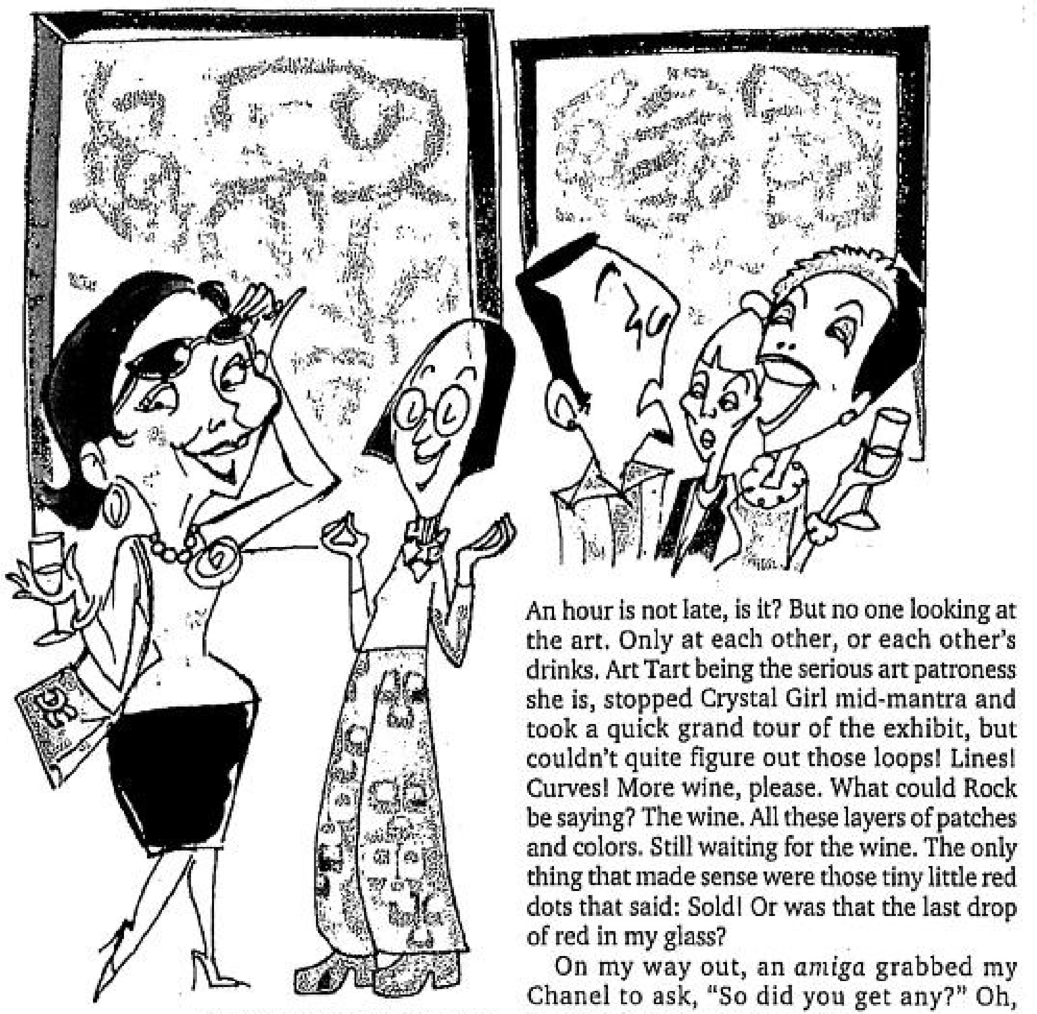
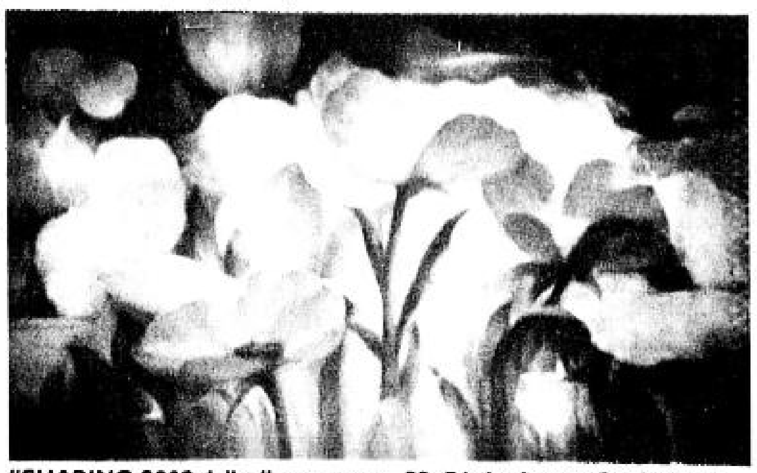
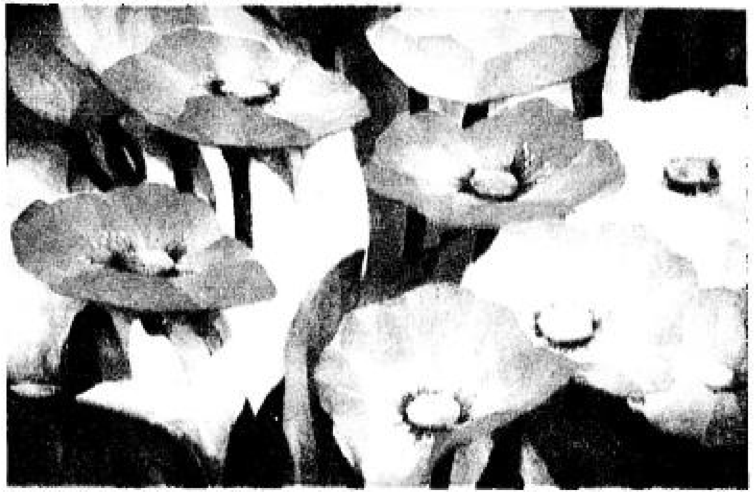


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ


**"SHARING 2002-1," oil on canvas, 32x54, by James Onglepho is on view at the Asia Art Gallery, 6/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City. Call 632-1433.**


**"SHARING 2001-79," oil on canvas, by James Onglepho is on view at the Asia Art Gallery.**

# Caingat at Heritage, Bacolor at West, young artists at Boston

### VISUAL ARTS

**AUSTRALIA-BASED** Filipino painter Jun Caingat will hold his latest one-man show, "Life in Full Color," from Feb. 8-17 at the Heritage Art Center, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Caingat brought prestige to the Filipino community in Australia when he got the top prize at the Panther Annual Australia Day Painting Competition in Perth, New South Wales in 1997 and 1999.

**BACOLOR AT WEST.** Felix Bacolor holds "Anthelions" at the West Gallery (Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati) until Feb. 12. As in his first exhibit, Bacolor retains his fascination with melding his spiritual and artistic sides. Bacolor focuses on color fields, particularly on shades of white, gray and silver. He uses these "pure" colors to see how each match up with the surface of the canvass with a few works coming out as mirror-like. He describes his latest collection as a play on light. Call 752-7028 to 29.

**GROUP EXHIBIT AT BOSTON GALLERY.** "Under Bleeding Rain and Sky Crystal Clear," an exhibit of paintings in oil and canvas featuring four promising young artists—Carlo Gabuco, Ivan Roxas, JC Tañedo and Christopher Zamora—opens on Feb. 9, 6 p.m., at Boston Gallery. The exhibit will run until March 5. Call 722-9205.

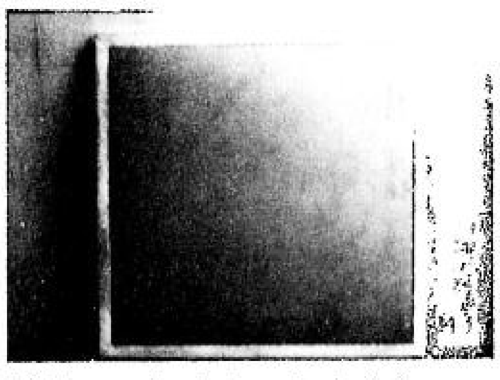
**ROMAN AT GALLERY NINE.** Tres Roman presents "Square One" at Gallery Nine, 150 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City until Feb. 8. Call 899-2704.

**IRANIAN EMBASSY EXHIBIT.** The Cultural Section of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents the 5th visual art exhibit, "Human, Art, Nature, Peace and Prosperity." Participating artists include Cindy Arms, Sicris Baldoz, Cristina Cinco, Alice Cuazon, LS de Leon, Demetrio dela Cruz, Eugene Espinosa, Dr. Myrna Fojas, Eva Alona Galeria, Cilovanni, Herzon, Lulu Katigbak, Alan Malunes, Lotsu Manes, Robert Mayuga, Marilyn Recio Ramos, Rhea, Cienes Santos, Janet Santos and Alberto Villabert. The exhibit runs until Feb. 10 at the Iranian embassy (16 corner Sta. Potenciana St. and Makati Ave., Urdaneta Village Makati City). Call 812-5696 or (0919) 817-8423.

**PHOTOGRAPHS AT VARGAS.** A series of black-and-white photographs comprises Ikin Salvador's first solo exhibit. She recorded on her camera the older members of Lubo Village in Tanudan, Kalinga Province who has *batek* (tattoos). To achieve the nearly permanent bluish-black impression on their bodies, they endured the painful process of having needles pierced through their skin. Moreover, *batek* is also a rite of passage. The display includes tattoo instruments and sculptures. Salvador will also give series of talks about *batek* on Feb.12. and March 15 at the UP Vargas Museum. Call Linda Pabico at 928-1927 or 920-5301 local 7407.

**FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHS.** Alliançe Fran-

CAINGAT/ p.E7


**"42 Degrees," mixed media, by Felix Bacolor at West Gallery-Glorietta**

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# Highs and lows of art contests

**By Gino Dormiendo**
*Contributor*

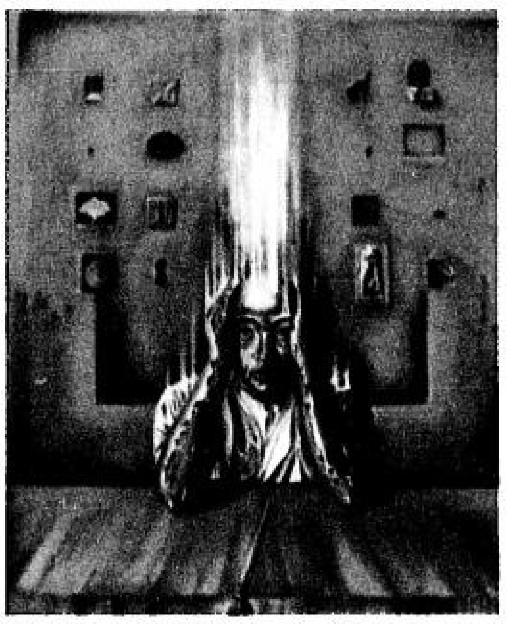
ART CONTESTS have an uncanny way of extracting the best—and, if unchecked, also the worst—from practitioners. For a judge, the task of separating the chaff from the grain can prove awesome. A judge would need to see one particular work singly and also in comparison with other works, and subject it to the most rigorous standards.

In the nationwide Diwa ng Sining art contest, "Expressing Hope Through Art," at the Art Center, SM Megamall, sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Rotary Club 3810, a record-setting number of 247 entries in various media vied for the best three prizes and Jurors' Choice citations, the number of which was left to the judges' discretion. Participants were required to work on the theme, which they either interpreted too liberally or too literally, to the viewer's dismay.

It was evident that a number of the participants had a rather limited grasp of the theme, resorting to such hoary clichés of imagery as a plant emerging from the soil, or of infants and children cradled in the arms of their mothers, or of humanity literally rising, phoenix-like, from the face of the earth. Some even submitted basically identical images, with a few variations here and there, which can prove embarrassing when viewed in the same venue.

Some aspired to loftier levels by resorting to symbolical or metaphorical devices, but these don't guarantee quality. There are, to be sure, pitfalls by omission and commission. Not to mention a slew of other shortcomings ranging from lack of coherence, unity and restraint, considering the strong urge to fill up every square inch of the canvas.

Named as co-winners were "Positive Sign," a mixed media work by Armando Flaviano, "Boundary Withdrawn," an oil on canvas by Eugenio Cubillo, and "Happening Ordeal Portions of Ego," a mixed media by Simoun Quilang.


**"BOUNDARYWithdrawn," oil on canvas, by Eugenio P. Cubillo II**

Flaviano's entry makes clever use of discards of film negatives as the central image, an allusion to the technological invention that has exposed mankind's innermost emotions. One needs to look closer and examine the amorphous shadow emerging from the assemblage of recycled film stock, which forms the faint outline of a human being, arms outstretched.

Cubillo's work is a portrait of the artist in this age of technology contemplating what the computer icons have done to his brush medium. Virtually surrounded by the semiotic onslaught of symbols, the forlorn image, while resembling a robot, has to give vent to his thoughts. In the hazy future run by computer-generated images, man will ultimately triumph, so the work suggests.

Quilang's work pays homage to the artistic process, a slow and painstaking process of conjuring images. Though predominantly in pen and ink, with a leitmotif of undulating lines that seem to give birth to infinitesimal images, the work makes use of a paper guide, complete with captions visible on both sides of the frame.

### Mixed bag

The Jurors' Choice winners were a mixed bag. Lawrence Memije's "Stellar" makes us contemplate a child's drawings and handwritings on the wall and on pad paper. Noli Manalang's "Behind the Shadows" (in mixed media) is an illustrative diptych, a two-in-one portrait of a man and a woman, both physically challenged (she is blind while he is mute) and with inspiring quotations to make the message starkly clear. Panchoruelo Ibasco's "Pandora's Box" alludes to the chestful of surprises that pop out of life's mysteries. Mark Mangugat's "Expectation" resorts to the tried-and-tested image of a pregnant woman while Cecile Oliveros' "Untitled" is a witty and disarming piece that celebrates the theme with the help of letters. Written on boxes, the complete text reads thus: "Each second you can be reborn. Each second there can be new beginnings. It is choice. It is your choice."

There were, of course, other noteworthy entries that, for one reason or another, failed to make the grade. Ignored were two entries that yielded a firm hand in lifelike portraiture: Teodoro Peñaflor's "Our Hope" and Carlo Lizaran's "Our Only Hope." (Even the titles betray an imagination thinning out.) Similarly, the spirit of innovation by way of media (as in Rexell Livelo's "Iba-ibang Mukha ng Pag-asa"), with its gallery of smiling faces, fell short of sheer expressivenes. Even a more belabored piece like "Power" by Henry Resales Jr., with its intricate mosaic of cut mirrors forming a giant chessboard, could not get the judges' nod.

Perhaps, in hindsight, artists of whatever shade and stripe generally do not like to be hampered or limited by a highly explicit theme. Perhaps a more succinctly worded theme like "survival" and "peace" and "progress" would have sufficed and teased the imagination. That would have made a world of a difference.

*E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com*

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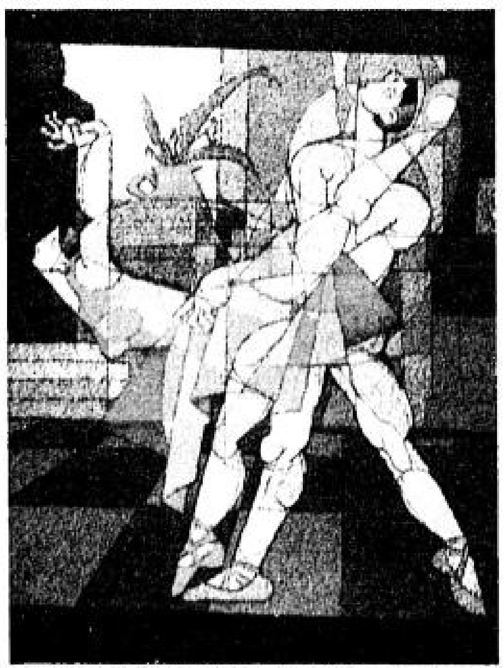
**OLD map of Jerusalem in traveling exhibit sponsored by the Israeli Embassy**

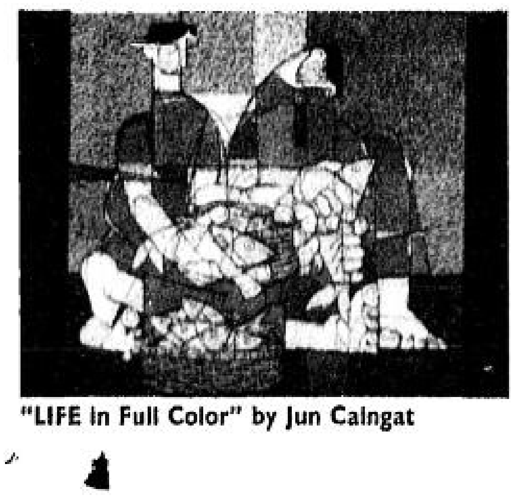
## Caingat . . .

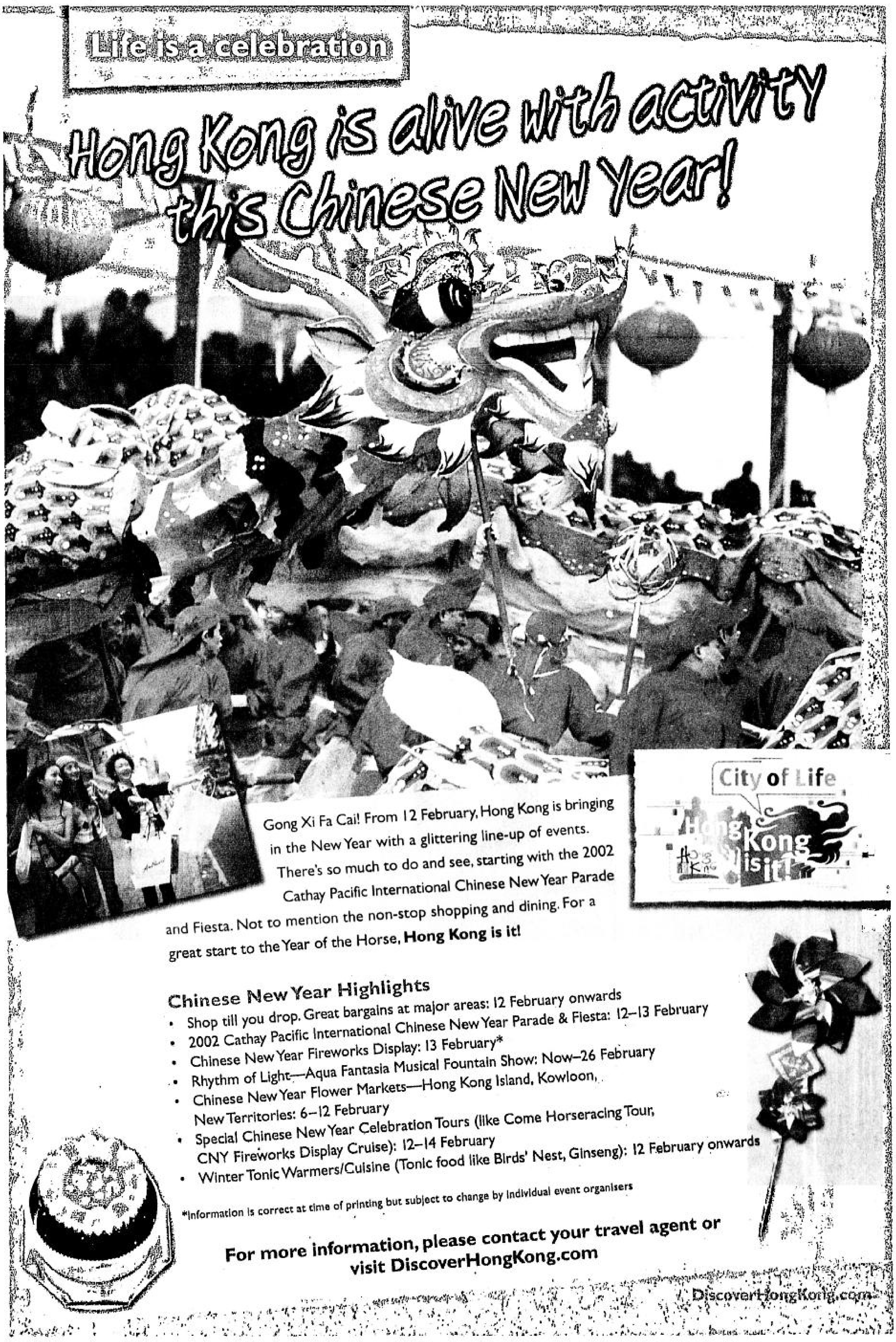
From page E6

çaise de Manille presents "Le plus beau jour de ma jeunesse," 21 works by Bernard Faucon from the Maison Europeenne de la Photographie Collection. Faucon's works reveal a fusion of logic and visual artistry depicted by surreal, poetic images of landscapes and "little boy" mannequins in diverse settings. The exhibit will run from Feb. 4-27. Call 895-7585/7441.

**ISRAELI PHOTOGRAPHS.** The Embassy of Israel presents "Jerusalem in Old Maps and Views," a photo exhibit and a cartographic history of the city which King David established as his capital 3,000 years ago. The holiness of both country and city is reflected in the early maps of the first two religions. Indeed it was the medieval Christian mapmakers who introduced the Holy Land and the Holy City into their maps, many of which were more symbolic and ideological than geographic in character. The exhibit can be viewed at the exhibit hall of the San Agustin Church on Feb. 7-18; at the Palma Hall, University of the Philippines, on Feb. 18-25; at the Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, on Feb. 25 to March 4; and at the main library of De La Salle University on March 4-11.


**"LIFE in Full Color" by Jun Caingat at Heritage Art Center, Glorietta**


**"LIFE in Full Color" by Jun Caingat**


Life is a celebration

Hong Kong is alive with activity this Chinese New Year!

Gong Xi Fa Cai! From 12 February, Hong Kong is bringing in the New Year with a glittering line-up of events. There's so much to do and see, starting with the 2002 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade and Fiesta. Not to mention the non-stop shopping and dining. For a great start to the Year of the Horse, **Hong Kong is it!**

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- Shop till you drop. Great bargains at major areas: 12 February onwards
- 2002 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade & Fiesta: 12–13 February
- Chinese New Year Fireworks Display: 13 February*
- Rhythm of Light—Aqua Fantasia Musical Fountain Show: Now–26 February
- Chinese New Year Flower Markets—Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, New Territories: 6–12 February
- Special Chinese New Year Celebration Tours (like Come Horseracing Tour, CNY Fireworks Display Cruise): 12–14 February
- Winter Tonic Warmers/Cuisine (Tonic food like Birds' Nest, Ginseng): 12 February onwards

*Information is correct at time of printing but subject to change by individual event organisers

For more information, please contact your travel agent or visit DiscoverHongKong.com

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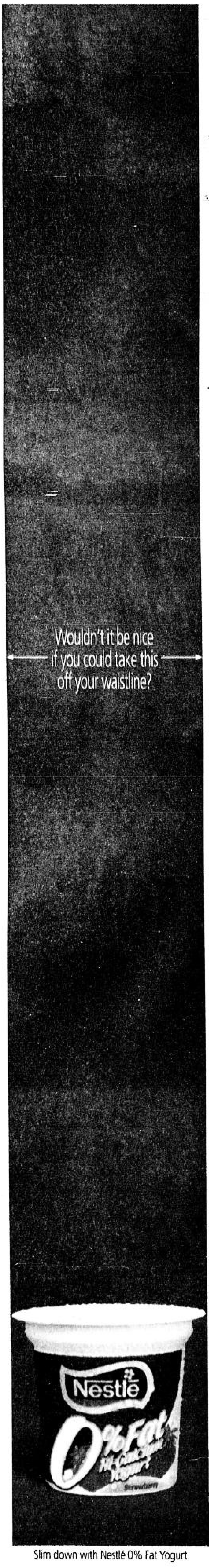
Wouldn't it be nice if you could take this off your waistline?

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# Rice terraces land in Unesco World Heritage Danger List

FILIPINOS agree that their rice terraces are among the wonders of the world. Now the world seems to agree with them.

The Unesco has bestowed on the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras the distinction of being inscribed in the World Heritage List, numbering it among the most unique, irreplaceable sites in the world. The list includes over 600 cultural and natural properties that exhibit the "highest cultural achievements of humankind," and natural properties that are "of extreme natural beauty and whose disappearance endangers the ecological balance of the globe."

The sites inscribed in the World Heritage List are the terrace clusters in Batad, Hungduan, Hapao, Mayoyao and Kiangan, which were the original areas protected under the mandate of the defunct Ifugao Terraces Commission before its authority was subsequently expanded to include other sites in Ifugao province.

For the World Heritage List, the site was categorized as a cultural landscape, a landscape shaped by the continual interaction between man and nature. An additional distinction was that this was the first property inscribed in the World Heritage List as one of the few "continuing cultural landscapes" in which the original function of the site still continues to this day.

It is a living site, not a landscape of inanimate relics, such as Easter Island in Chile, or a religious landscape that is revered but not inhabited by locals, like the Tongariro National Park in New Zealand.

The threat to the site is life itself. Once human life disappears from the site, the terraces will crumble and destroy an entire culture whose lifestyle centers around the terraces and the planting of rice. Therefore, to ensure that the terraces stay alive, Unesco declared the terraces as a World Heritage in Danger site last December.

The Unesco citation read: "The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras is a delicate, evolving cultural landscape. In the absence of a systematic monitoring program or a comprehensive management plan, it is, at present, impossible to guarantee the preservation and sustainable development of these rice terraces. The Philippine authorities saw the Danger listing as an essential tool for mobilizing effective, decisive and rapid intervention for addressing the threats facing the site."

### Misunderstood

The Danger designation is often misunderstood as an embarrassing sign that the authorities in charge of the site have not been doing their work. On the contrary, the designation acknowledges that "major operations are necessary and for which assistance has been requested under this [World Heritage] Convention." It is a mechanism that uses the Unesco World Heritage Convention to alert national and international agencies that cooperation and funding are needed immediately to keep the site from total degradation.

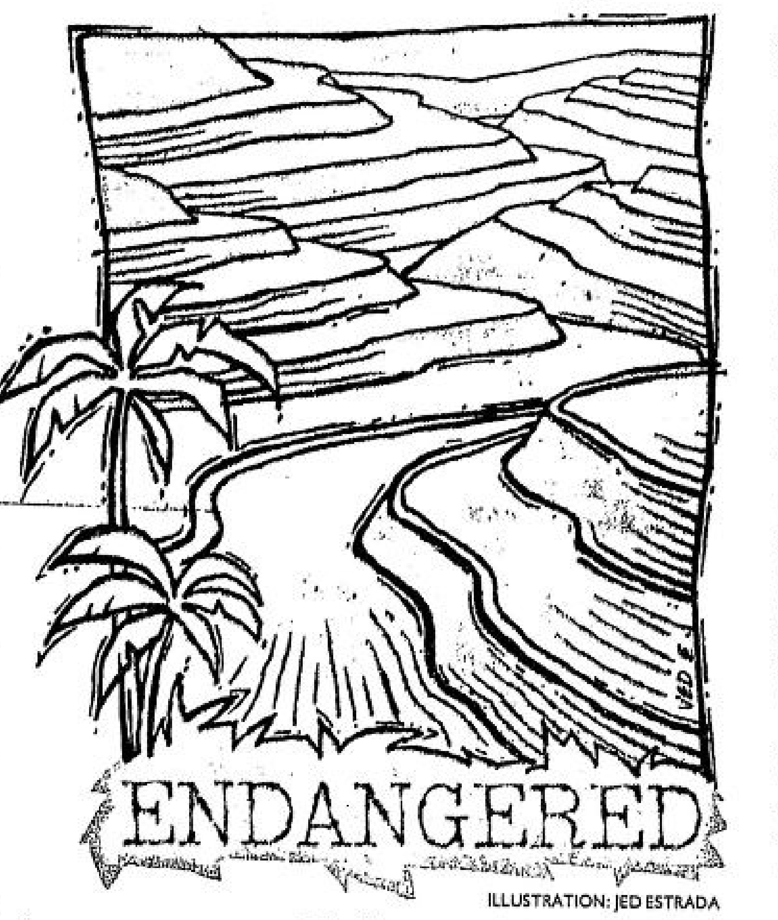

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

SPACED OUT

*Augusto F. Villalon*

It is a living site, not a landscape of inanimate relics

Danger sites are not restricted to underdeveloped societies. Others are the Everglades National Park in Florida, Jabiluka National Park in Australia and the well-known Galapagos Islands in Ecuador.

When President Ramos decreed the existence of the Ifugao Terraces Commission, its first task was to commission a six-year master plan for the rice terraces in Ifugao province. The plan "recognized the traditional Ifugao mastery at watershed ecology and terrace engineering." The Commission, with the secretary of tourism as chair, was tasked to oversee its implementation.

President Estrada abolished the Commission and replaced it with the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force. It had practically the same structure and mandate as its predecessor; it also retained the secretary of tourism as chair.

Plagued by a lack of budget and support from national government, the Task Force did the best it could but the task of overseeing the master plan proved to be too overwhelming for its meager resources. The terraces degraded faster than the Task Force could institute preservation programs.

Two Unesco assessment missions to the site in 1994 and 2001 confirmed the rapid degradation process. When the experts returned in 2001, they observed that, compared to the state of the terraces in 1994, the degradation was so advanced in some areas that the terraces migh last no longer than 10 years. It was time to do something fast.

Commitment has been coming in since its declaration as a World Heritage in Danger site. Adding to a previous grant of $50,000 that provided equipment and training of local technicians for computerized mapping of the five World Heritage terrace clusters through the Geographic Information System (GIS), Unesco granted additional financial assistance of $75,000 to perform a review and update of the six-year master plan, with the aim of developing a series of preservation projects that will be implemented by different national and international agencies.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts has adopted the preservation of the rice terraces as its banner project for 2002, granting a record P50 million for a series of cultural preservation projects intended to improve livelihood and to strengthen the disappearing sense of pride that the Ifugao has traditionally had for his culture and landscape.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute proposes a five-year project that will link the process of conserving the ecosystem with producing economic benefits for the community, developing a local capability among terrace residents for sustainable entrepreneurship.

### Full support

Secretary Richard Gordon, chair of the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force, has pledged the full support of the Department of Tourism in developing sustainable ecotourism programs, providing the infrastructure needed to sustain the programs, and launching a tourism campaign for the terraces.

He pointed out that whatever preservation and development programs to be undertaken in the rice terraces area should be determined and agreed upon by the residents themselves and not by outsiders, saying, "If tourism will hurt the tribal ways, then we should not encourage it."

The nomination dossier for Unesco World Heritage inscription says: "Over the centuries, traditional culture has developed a sophisticated support system of cultural, socioeconomic, ecological, hydraulic and other practices that continue to exist up to the present day in order to maintain the site. To preserve the life of the site, including wild living organisms (biodiversity) and their specific habitats, it is necessary to continue the delicate interrelationship between culture and its traditional systems. It is a landscape that is being renewed daily and will continue its existence for as long as the unbroken line of this lifestyle continues."

Our duty as Filipinos is to appreciate, understand and encourage the efforts of our Ifugao brothers who are the custodians of the terraces. For a people like the Filipinos who never cease to celebrate life, it is fitting that our greatest national monument is a living site, not a relic or a static structure. It is a system of rice terraces that stretches over a major part of the Philippine Cordilleras that sadly struggles to continue to support life.

*E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph*

# New art calendar preserves vanishing tradition

From page E5

### Postmodern wit

For May and June, "Manwal (Bahay-Kubo Player Manual)," 48" x 48", by Robert Nelson Besana of the Philippine Women's University Manila, depicts another slipper game, the seven players in spontaneous motion set against a background of yellow sky and green meadow, with highlights on the sunbrowned bodies and the ribcage of two boys.

Of the entries, we like this best not only for its pictorial quality but also for its postmodern wit. In fact, the artist has incorporated text in his canvas (in the same way postmodern writers incorporate drawings in their texts). For instance, three players are identified in script as Target No. 1, Taya and Balagoong. On one side of the canvas, a row of slippers is identified as Kay Totoy, Kay Marlon, Kay Christian, Kay Peter, Kay Botchok.

Overhead is an inverted image of a kid aiming to hurl a slipper. Behind him is what looks like an ancient calendar with images of sun, moon, stars and the *bakunawa*, as in an old almanac. This serves as a chart with words in old script—*araw, tanghali, gabi, laro, ulan, sapul*—probably a schedule for the game.

In a second panel of the canvas, in violet and gray, the boys are caught posing as though in a photo shoot, with the words *barkada, katropa, kalaro*. There is a cluster of foliage, then a broken line with arrow tracing the trajectory of a flying slipper (shown in two views as it flips), and finally a brief instruction on how to play the game. Flying with the slippers are the exclamations *Inakupo! ooops!!! habol! huli ka! o, walang pikon ha? Aray! Takbo!*

Some of these pieces are as idyllic as the memories of childhood, with the kids in their games set in a romanticized landscape. But others are resolutely realist, the milieu that of the Filipino masses, whether urban or rural.

All portray the fun of children in their games, but a few already foreshadow the aggressive, competitive adults they will become.

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# INFOTECH

Leo Magno, Editor

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: HRUBIO

## As an orc, Erap would be Grúbbog the Sleek

**By Leo Magno**

DID you know that ages ago, in a land known as Middle-Earth, in her past life Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was a Miruvor-drinking Umbarian? Or that Joseph Estrada was a frightened Baggins and that Osama bin Laden was a world-famous Dúnedain? Bill Gates was an incognito Dunlending, and Leo Magno was a stuttering black Númenorean. All this happened at one point in the history of Middle-Earth, that is, if you believe that J.R.R. Tolkien's imagined world exists, and if you believe the site called The Barrow-Downs (www.barrowdowns.com).

Aside from being a site for Tolkien fans where visitors can share information, discuss the trilogy or talk about its film adaptation, The Barrow-Downs website also has a name translator which converts your name into its equivalent in the language of Uruks (Orcs), Elves, Dwarves and Hobbits. By indicating your name on the field with proper capitalizations, the site will also tell you what you were in Middle-Earth in your previous life—whether you were a dragon, an Orc, an Elf, a troll, an ent or whatever. For example, the site says that my hobbit name—if you enter Leo Magno in the field—is Posco Gold from Sackville, but my Orcish name is Gâbkûr the Mucous. Hmmm.

AS AN ORC/ F2

## Rural school 'upgrades' teachers, students via ICT

**By Joel Pinaroc**
*INQ7.net*

A SECONDARY learning institution in Laguna has started utilizing personal computers and the Internet in an attempt to "upgrade" the skills of its faculty staff as required by the school's alternative learning curriculum, as well as allow its students to interact with their global counterparts.

The Cahbriba Alternative School Foundation (CASF), a nonprofit, non-government organization, known as one of the few schools in the country offering "alternative educational models" has started utilizing the Internet to know more of alternative learning methods used by schools around the world, Cahbriba head Pilar Habito said.

Despite having only a handful of computers housed in a computer laboratory, students of Cahbriba—from preschool to high school—are now using the computer and the Internet to interact virtually with other students and to design school projects and activities, Habito said.

The use of the Internet in a rural setting is noteworthy, considering that the majority of secondary schools in the country, whether rural or urban, do not have computers, much less Internet access and computer-based courses in their respective curriculums.

And despite the rough roads leading to Cahbriba, the computer laboratory is running smoothly, school officials said.

Cahbriba, located in perhaps one of the most isolated areas of Los Baños in Laguna has a computer laboratory, housing eight Pentium III PCs, a server, an inkjet scanner, a printer, digital camera and various software which came from the Philippine representative office of software giant Microsoft, under the company's Connected Learning Community program.

A one-year free Internet subscription and software training was also part of Microsoft Philippines' donation.

"We can see the overwhelming enthusiasm of students from all over the community, who can now use the computer and the Internet," Habito said.

Since Cahbriba is implementing a semi-rigid curriculum, students can freely use the facilities anytime their schedules allow.

For the teachers, a training program consisting of basic computer and Internet concepts, such as the use of word processors and e-mail is now being implemented by Cahbriba, Habito said.

Interestingly, a school official noted that more emphasis would have to be given to basic Internet training such as e-mail, since most of the teachers do not have computers at home and that sustained usage of the Internet is needed to allow teachers to "get a feel" of basic Internet applications.

Habito said the school has been taking a different direction from the established educational curriculum being implemented by most schools in the Philippines.

She said Cahbriba is a prime example of an important "paradigm shift" in the implementation of basic education in the country.

The CASF has been implementing the Multiple Intelligences approach of teaching, a method that basically defines the competencies and potential of a person, contrary to the general curriculum which rates intelligence based on the intelligence quotient.

The curriculum, for instance, allows students to roam freely in the classroom and express themselves freely in the form they would want to. Students in an examination, say, are allowed to give answers in either visual (illustrations), oral (recitation) and the more traditional written form.

Cahbriba officials said the school is already making inroads to convince the government, the education department in particular, to recognize the potential of alternative learning for Filipino students.

Cahbriba officials have high hopes that with the aid of computers, the alternative learning methods they are pushing for will further be enhanced and improved.

READ THIS STORY ONLINE AT INQ7.net

**Rural school 'upgrades' teachers, students via ICT**
http://www.inq7.net/inf/2002/jan/31/inf_3-1.htm

**Read more stories about IT and education in the Infotech site of INQ7.net.**

## Dotcom job cuts in US slow down in January

SAN FRANCISCO—US dotcom job cuts eased in January to 1,802, marking the third straight monthly decline in the battered sector, a Chicago job placement consultancy reported recently.

January numbers were a 25-percent decline over December's 2,403 Internet company sackings, said the Challenger, Gray and Christmas consultancy.

Since December 1999, 144,242 US workers who staffed dotcom start-ups have been fired. The largest number of those were between October 2000 and July 2001, when 107,851 dotcom workers were shown the door. That period coincides with the wave of dotcom failures after investors realized that revenues would never match income in this "new economy" sector. **AFP**

## Experiencing polls the high-tech way

**By Charles E. Buban**

THE WAY we conduct our elections may soon change for the better if the Commission on Elections decides to adopt an election systems solution introduced in the country recently.

In line with the Comelec's aim to computerize the country's polls, Total Information Management Corp. in partnership with US-based Diebold Inc. recently signed an international distributorship agreement that will introduce to the Philippines an integrated Election Solution System.

With this system, organizers of the national polls and plebiscites will be able to employ advanced digital technology for orderly, fast, accurate and credible results.

"Time and again we are faced with the usual election problems: over-voting, under-voting, provisional ballots, voter disenfranchisement, accessibility and privacy for physically challenged voters. With this system, we intend to erase all that," says Lamberto Lorenzo, TIM senior vice president.

The computer system will provide voters inside a precinct or at voting terminals with easy-to-understand instructions on screen when choosing his or her preferred candidate (the LCD monitor can even display an image of the chosen candidate) and when casting his or her vote.

Called the UE2000, this voting terminal has a PC architecture and uses a Cyrix processor. Each machine features a motherboard, keypad for voter identification, special keyboard to input votes, a monochromatic LCD which shows voters the photos of the candidates, an internal battery and a thermal printer.

"This machine is envisioned to supplant the existing manual system wherein each voter is given a pen and sheets of paper with the list of candidates and led to an improvised polling booth. This new voting procedure will not be in conflict at all with other planned or existing election system that the commission may have in terms of voters' registration," explains Lorenzo.

EXPERIENCING/ F2

PLDT Provides Backbone to LTO Computerization Project

Telecommunications giant PLDT recently signed a network service agreement with STRADCOM Corporation, the proponent of the LTO-IT project, the government's first nationwide IT project under a 10-year Build-Own-Operate (BOO) Agreement. In this agreement, PLDT will carry the project's massive network infrastructure via PLDT Brains that will interconnect 250 LTO district and regional offices nationwide.

The LTO-IT Project aims to streamline the government agency that issues drivers' licenses and registers motor vehicles. It involves the construction of front-end and back-end applications, interconnectivity of all its offices, creation of a data-warehouse, as well as provision of operations and maintenance services of the system throughout the concession period. Once fully implemented, both the LTO and STRADCOM hope to deliver a much more efficient public service to the millions of Filipino motorists and vehicle owners, as well as the general public.

Currently, all LTO offices in the National Capital Region (NCR) have been automated since June of last year and are operating in a computerized environment. NCR represents 1/3 of the national volume of transactions. The rollout for regions 3, 4, 6, 7 and 11 is ongoing with almost 80 offices made ready for installation and roughly 40 initial offices successfully tested. Immediately to follow is the rollout of regions 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, CAR and CARAGA. Comprising the comprehensive implementation are physical preparation like civil works, the supply of primary and peripheral hardware, and the delivery of the system application. The project is expected to finish by the middle of this year.

The service being provided by PLDT includes the supply and delivery of CISCO routers, switches and telecom equipment like VSAT. It also involves nationwide support services over a minimum of five years.

Aside from coming in as a service provider to the project, PLDT is also an investor into STRADCOM. Last year, PLDT invested in preferred shares through its subsidiary, ePLDT.

ADVT.

*PLDT recently signed a network service agreement with STRADCOM Corporation for the provision of PLDT Brains Frame Relay Service for the LTO Computerization Project, the goverment's first nationwide IT project. Shown in photo during the signing held at PLDT Ramon Cojuangco Building (seated, from left): Alfredo Panlilio, SVP-PLDT Corporate Business Group; Manuel V. Pangilinan, PLDT President & CEO; Cezar T. Quiambao, STRADCOM Chairman; Angel Umali, STRADCOM President & CEO. Standing (from left): Jaime Casin, PLDT Sr. Sales Manager, Joselito Limjap, PLDT Sr. Product Manager; Rhoda Bernabe, PLDT Corporate Sales Executive; Joseph Verzosa, PLDT Sales Manager; Raul Pagdanganan, STRADCOM CFO; Jose Carlos, STRADCOM CIO; Jose Chua, STRADCOM Treasurer; Anthony Quiambao, STRADCOM Finance/Controller.*

# School offers course on graphics, computer animation and games

**By Raul C. Dancel**

COMPUTER game junkies rejoice! There is hope for you yet. A school in southern Metro Manila is offering a course for people who can't seem to let go of those Playstation gaming pads and those who are hopelessly hooked on Civilization III's "just-one-last-turn" syndrome.

Southville International School Affiliated with Foreign Universities in Las Piñas is offering a course on "graphics and animation for computer games" and an opportunity to finish it and hopefully land a job abroad.

The course is divided into two phases. Students spend their first two years inside Southville's campus at the BF Homes International subdivision in Las Piñas, where they take two semesters of basic lessons on computer programming and another two semesters on advanced gaming technology. They can then opt to transfer to Insearch/University of Technology in Sydney, Australia and complete four more semesters to get a degree in computing.

In their first semester, students take up subjects in business communication and basic programming. They then move on to Windows programming, with subjects on systems and database analysis, in the second semester.

In their third and fourth semesters, their subjects will deal mainly on computer gaming. Their subjects will involve graphics interface, use of games on the Internet, mathematics of computing theory and analysis of games in the third semester. In their last semester, they will move on to system design, mathematics of games and graphics, animation and graphics presentation.

Unlike most schools in the country, Southville follows a different set of curriculum. Minor subjects are eliminated, so students taking a course on information technology won't have to worry about passing a subject on oriental philosophy or good table manners. Classes are kept small at less than 20 students each.

Southville, formed in 1998, seeks to provide the country's youth the opportunity to get the kind of education that only students in developed countries have access to, according to Southville's administration and marketing manager, Joyce Cudale.

"It is not meant to undermine the standards of local universities because these top institutions in the country today have already carved a niche in education and have, thus, acquired the respect they deserve even abroad," Cudale clarifies. "Foreign colleges serve as an option, especially to those who would like to pursue a career in the foreign arena since these foreign schools take them to their first steps to achieving an international dream."

A degree from Southville, however, won't come cheap by the country's standards. The school charges about P100,000 during the first year of its information technology program. It gets higher as they begin studying abroad, as tuition and living expenses can reach as high as P500,000 a year, excluding air fare.

"The cost factor is not that big a deal," stresses Roger Bartholomew, a Southville director. "Our students would be spending around 30 to 40 percent more than they would at local colleges, but they would finish a year earlier with industry experience and they have the option to avail of a year's paid internship overseas before they come back."

# As an orc, Erap would be . . .

(From page F1)

Bill Gates' hobbit name is Samwise Green from Frogmorton, but as an Orc he is Nazgob the Malicious. As an Orc, Joseph Estrada would be Grúbbog the Sleek, and Rorimac Sackville-Baggins from Standelf if Erap were a hobbit. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would be Gutdreg the Tearer as an Orc, albeit a tiny one, but her more appropriate hobbit name would be Hildigrim Hilldweller from Deephallow. Osama bin Laden's Orcish entry is eerily appropriate—he is Nazrukh the Burner as an Orc. Bin Laden is also Sancho Gardener from the North Moors as a hobbit. All these names, according to the website, are "taken from the ancient scrolls of the Red Book of Westmarch."

The Barrow-Downs website is named after that gloomy place which the four hobbits—Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin—crossed just after they left the domain of Tom Bombadil and before they reached Rivendell. If this isn't familiar to you, maybe it's because these two chapters from "The Fellowship of the Ring" were omitted from the movie version. In the movie, Tom Bombadil and his wife Goldberry were never mentioned. In the book, the Council of Elrond considered giving the One Ring to Tom since, apparently, the ring had no power over him. In the movie, the council said there was no other choice but to cast the ring to Orodruin (Mt. Doom) where it was forged and, thus, could also be destroyed. In the book, the council considered three options: (1) destroy it in Mt. Doom, (2) give the ring to Tom, and (3) throw it into the middle of the ocean. In the chapter "Fog on the Barrow-Downs," Tom it was who came running to the rescue of the hobbits when they were attacked by Barrow-Wights in the Barrow-Downs. This chapter was completely axed from the movie, too. What then, will happen, to the knife which was used to stab one of the Barrow-Wights, the same knife which will mortally wound the leader of the Nazgûl in part three, "The Return of the King"?

Oops. Lest I be branded a spoiler, I better stop it here. Go watch the movie first. Better yet, read the whole trilogy. In the meantime, visit The Barrow-Downs website for some fun and background info.

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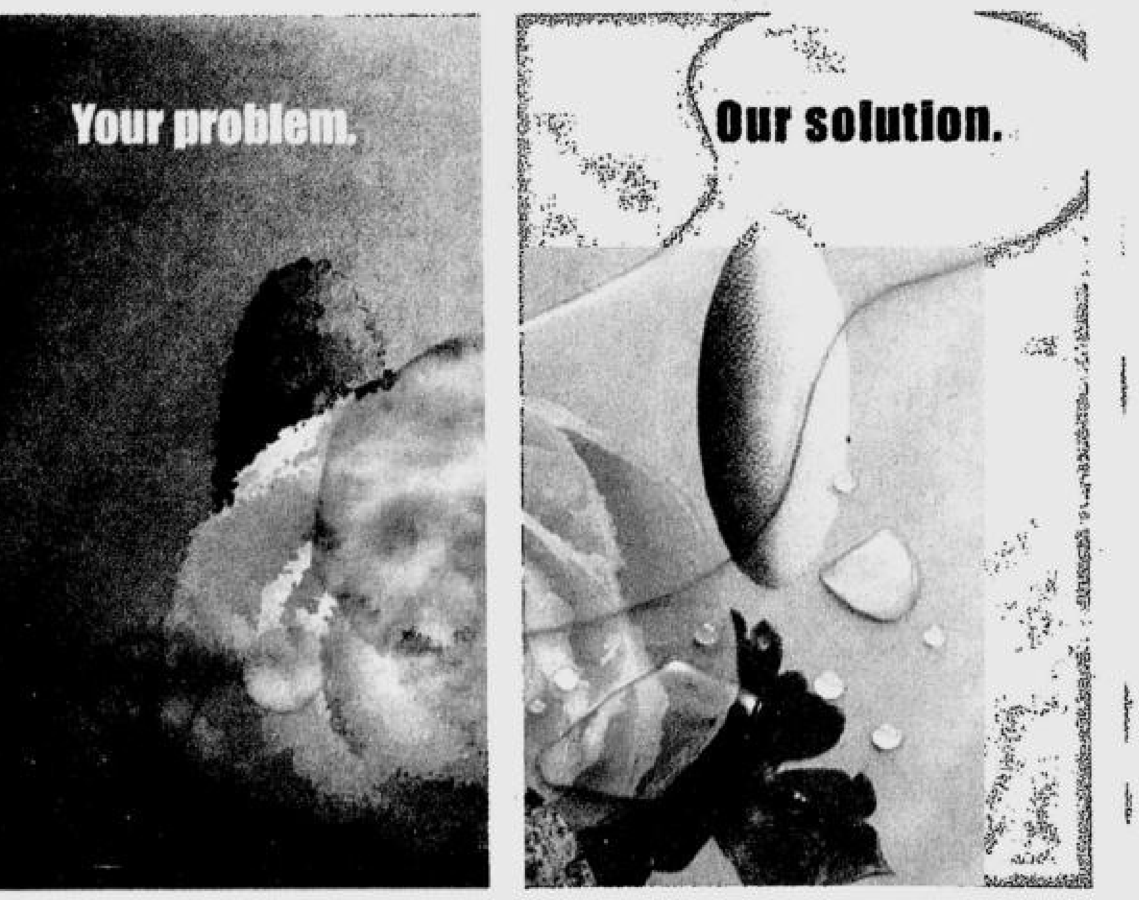

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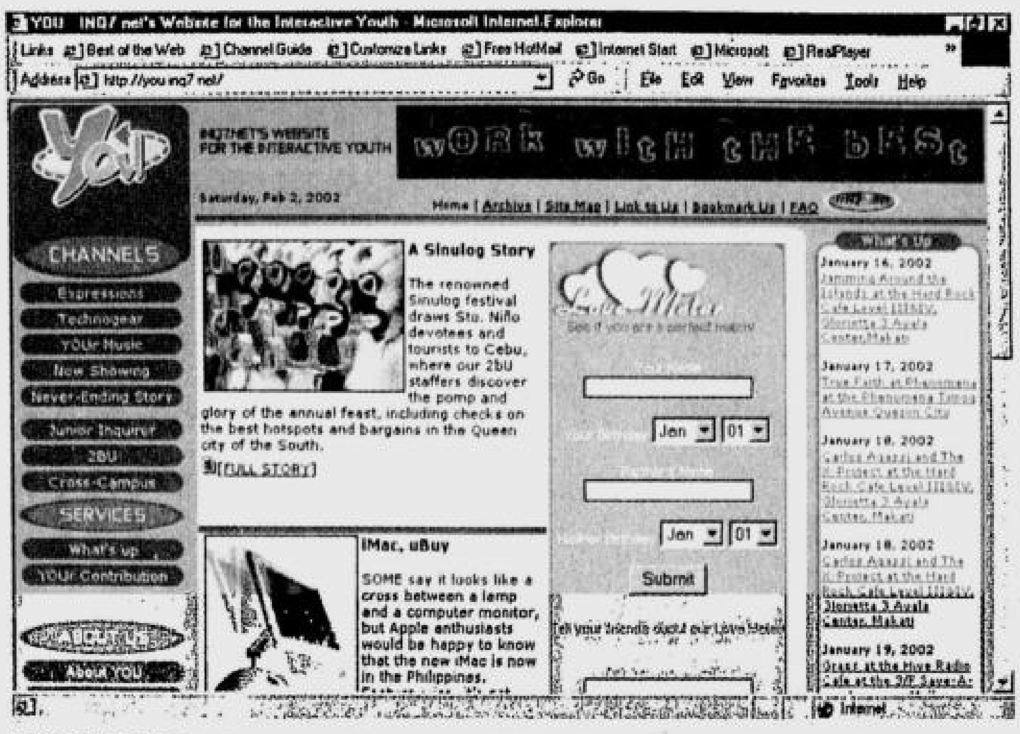
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**A Sinulog Story**

The renowned Sinulog festival draws Sto. Niño devotees and tourists to Cebu, where our 2bU staffers discover the pomp and glory of the annual feast, including checks on the best hotspots and bargains in the Queen city of the South.

[FULL STORY]

**iMac, uBuy**

SOME say it looks like a cross between a lamp and a computer monitor, but Apple enthusiasts would be happy to know that the new iMac is now in the Philippines.

VALENTINE'S Day is approaching, and so YOU is featuring an online Love Meter to find out how compatible you and your loved one are. YOU (www.you.inq7.net) is INQ7.net's website for the interactive youth.

# Experiencing polls . . .

(From page F1)

The computer system has been proven effective in Latin American countries like Brazil, where the Tribunal Superior Eleitoral (TSE), responsible for all elections in Brazil, acquired and used the system for its 1998 national and other succeeding elections.

In October 2000, the entire voting population of Brazil—approximately 100 million people—participated in the nationwide elections using the UE2000 machines.

The machines designed for the TSE were used effectively in more than 300,000 polling stations—even in the most remote locations of the Amazon.

"These polling machines have been proven to provide fast, accurate election results. According to Brazil TSE's specifications, Diebold-Procomp has created a product that has considerably reduced any opportunity for fraud and increased the confidence of the Brazilian public in their voting," said Diebold sales and marketing director for Asia Gavin Cushmann.

Cushmann said the Diebold-Global technology will be implemented by trained and duly authorized personnel who will load a database with voter and candidate information into each UE2000 voting terminal. Only registered voters may use the terminals by entering his or her voter's ID, and then key in the number assigned to his or her chosen candidate. The voter will have a visual confirmation of the vote cast on the liquid crystal display and the vote is now stored inside the machine.

"At the end of the day, authorized personnel download the information onto a diskette, make a hard copy using a thermal printer and transmit the data to a central location where votes are tallied," explains Cushmann.

According to Jose Mari Antunez, TIM president and CEO: "With the integrated Diebold-Global Elections Systems' Solutions and its alliance with our company, the prospects for a state-of-the-art but simple and user-friendly solution emerge as a meritorious investment for the government to hasten one of its priority projects."

Established in 1985, TIM (www.timcorp.net) is a fully owned Filipino IT Solutions company with nationwide operations offering a variety of products and services. Today, the company has a capital of over P1 billion and has consistently generated revenues of more than P800 million annually from sales of hardware and software systems.

Diebold Inc. (www.diebold.com), on the other hand, is a global leader in providing integrated self-service delivery systems and services. Headquartered in Canton, Ohio, USA, Diebold has representation in more than 80 countries worldwide. The company also acquired last year, Global Election Systems Inc., an industry leader in the election equipment marketplace with over 850 jurisdictions in North America utilizing its AccuVote (optical scan) or AccuVote-TS (touch screen) voting systems. Its product line also includes VoteRemote, a high speed automated absentee ballot printing and processing system.

# Plan for disaster recovery to protect important data

**By Allan Tan**

THERE is a lesson learned in every misfortune. And while at times it sounds insensitive to discuss the issues, we have to look at the potential for any disaster to happen to us and to be prepared for those rare occasions.

The Sept. 11 event in New York, while in itself was never perceived as a possibility, actually had a precedent when the bombing in 1993 happened. This became a wake-up call for many businesses.

Recently, I met a CIO of a major financial firm and I asked him: "What is my information worth to you?" The answer was an obvious "very important." And yet, when we looked at their information systems set-up, we discovered that not enough safeguards were in place to protect that information.

In my dealings with many IT executives, disaster recovery is a high priority today and this is attributable to what happened at the World Trade Center in New York. But what I find disconcerting is that many people still have a vague idea of how to safeguard their most important corporate asset—information.

Here is a distillation of several years of wisdom collected from my dealings with people who have worked on building disaster recovery methodologies.

- **Don't place backup facilities near each other.** When the twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed, companies with backup sites in the surrounding area discovered that such facilities were suddenly rendered useless. It is important to set up a backup site far removed from the production facility. In the event that a major earthquake hits your production site, the intent is to be able to recover almost instantaneously at another facility not affected by the earthquake.

In the past, backup facilities were placed in close proximity to the main site because technology was a limiting factor. Today, you can have a site 40 or more kilometers away from the main facility. The Promontory Project in the United States highlighted the possibility of implementing data transfers over thousands of kilometers distance.

- **Do regular backups of data residing on desktops and laptops.** As one who travels frequently, I have had the misfortune of seeing my Outlook database (pst file) crash at least twice in 2001. Luckily for me, I had a backup; otherwise I would have lost all of my contact lists as well as important proposals, memos and communications with colleagues and customers. How many times have you tried looking for information only to find out you had deleted it earlier? How many times have you backed up your data only to find out that something is missing? If you are like me, you probably have Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, PDF files and PowerPoint presentations saved in multiple folders. The trick therefore is to be able to remember where you saved which file. But who can do that?

It is more prudent to save folders instead of files. It is easier to remember to backup several folders than to backup hundreds of files. One caveat: you may need more disk space to save the folders.

- **Organize your backup.** In any sizeable business operation, you will have e-mail servers, database servers and network servers. You will also likely have several operating systems such as IBM AIX, HP UX, Windows NT, Windows 2000 or even Linux variants.

Some operating systems are notorious for misbehaving. A recommended safety precaution is to backup applications and data from like environments together. In an ideal world, we should have one operating system running different applications.

- **Have a fully operational, and connected, backup site.** What good is a state-of-the-art backup site if it is not connected to a company's business operations when disaster strikes? For a business that needs to be operational 24x7, it is important to have a backup site that has the hardware, software, network connectivity and services needed to run all operations. Until the World Trade Center disaster, most companies did not plan for the possibility that an entire facility would be completely wiped out. Unfortunately, they now have to plan for that possibility.

- **Be prepared to reestablish systems management capabilities quickly.** Having backup management capabilities—such as monitoring, job execution and security features—will make it easier to establish a data command center in a new location.

- **Conduct regular training for internal disaster response teams.** The alarms are sounding. Everyone is panicking. What do you do? Do what the big banks do! They have internal disaster response (IDR) or crisis response (CR) teams that go through a disaster recovery situation several times in a year. Why? They need to keep their IDR teams ready to move at an instant's notice. There's no point in having an IDR team or a CR facility if you can't use it in times of crisis. A well-rehearsed crisis response team will be able to restore data and bring operations back up quickly.

*(The author is the Philippine country manager of Hitachi Data Systems.)*

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